THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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TOWN.....11-8.
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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 19TH JANUARY.

WE HEAR that the young Maharaja of Burdwan proposes to visit England. The idea, it is said, has been put into his head by his Private Secretary, Mr. Miller. His relatives and officers have been much alarmed by the news as the Maharajah is too young to trust to himself. The Maharajah, we are told, has been consulting His Honor the Lieutenant Governor as to what he should do. His Honor, it is rumoured, says that the Government has no voice in the matter, the Maharaja being a major could act on his own judgment. The matter is still under consideration.

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:

Sylhet, the 30th December 1879.

SIR,—On a reference to page 731 of the *Assam Gazette* you will see that four youths natives of the districts of the Brahmáputra valley will be annually deputed at Government expense for education to the Dacca Medical School to qualify themselves as Hospital Assistants for service in Assam. This is very good, indeed: but I express my regret at the exclusion of youths of the Surmah valley districts viz Sylhet and Cachar.

I remain, Sir
Yours obediently
SATTYA [illegible]

THE FOLLOWING ITEM, which ought to have appeared three weeks ago, had been kept back by an oversight:

His Excellency the Viceroy has acknowledged with thanks the receipt of the handsome casket containing Baboo Gopal Chunder Mookerjee's translation of Mr. Talboys Wheeler's "Imperial Assemblage" and other books by the same author. His Excellency felt much pleasure in accepting these interesting volumes.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Tipperah:

The Magistrate of Tipperah Mr. Jones is thinking of establishing a Public Library and Hall here and the other day convened a meeting consisting of the *Elite* of the Comillah Public. The European residents of the town largely attended. The Magistrate and the Maharaja's very able, energetic and popular Peshkar Babu Ashutosh Chatterjee eloquently addressed the meeting in English amid loud cheers. The want of such a Hall being greatly felt in a backward town like Comillah Babu Asutosh's proposal was unanimously carried and an executive committee was formed to give practical effect to it.

We are happy to hear that through the exertions of Babus Ashutosh Chatterjee, and Raj Mohun Mitter. His Highness the Maharajah has kindly consented to bear the expenses of the building and the Hall is to be called after his name "Beer Chunder Hall."

THE FOLLOWING telegram was forwarded from Vienna to Lord Lytton, on the occasion of his recent escape, and in the names of Princess Arenberg, Prince Liechtenstein, Prince and Princess Hohenloe, M. de Falbe, Princess Dietrenstein, Prince Croy, Count and Countess Clam Gallas, Count Hoyos &c.;—"To Lord Lytton, Calcutta:—"Receive from your friends in Vienna this testimony of their sincere sympathy, and their ardent wishes that Divine Providence may continue to protect you and yours."

RUSSIA, it would seem, is chuckling over our disaster at Kabul. The *St. Petersburg Gazette* attributes the general rising to the barbarous conduct of General Roberts, and it says:—"Whatever be the issue of this struggle, we think it our duty to admit candidly that Russia would not be very grieved in the not improbable event of the column of General Roberts meeting the same fate as the celebrated Embassy of Major Cavagnari." The *Novoye Vremya* advises that "it would be wiser in future to abandon ideas of conquests and adventure as in 1843;" and it thinks it "curious that no mention is made of the losses of the English sepoys," and supposes "it arises from the fact that the Indian Government considers the blood of the native troops to be so much water." But this journal resigns itself to the supposition that "the English will shortly occupy Herat, and by next spring the chances are that England will be our neighbour in Central Asia—a pleasant prospect for those to contemplate who consider a war between England and Russia inevitable." The *Molva* says: "These difficulties in Afghanistan will not improve the embarrssed situation in which the English ministry already finds itself. The distribution of orders to soldiers who have distinguished themselves in Asia and Africa will scarcely appear to Englishmen as sufficient compensation for the heavy sacrifices the two wars have cost England, especially as these wars were entered upon by the Beaconsfield Cabinet in opposition to international right and without sufficient grounds." But Russia has doubtless been mortified to learn that the British flag again waves over Kabul.

IT IS stated that Mr. Nana Morojee, Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, will shortly retire on a pension, and that Mr. Shankar Pandurang Pandit, Oriental Translator, will succeed him. It is said that the post of Oriental Translator will be conferred upon Khan Bahadar Dastur Hoshang Jamasp, Professor of Oriental Languages in the Deccan College.

TUESDAY, 20TH JANUARY.

THERE HAVE been not only grand festivities at Baroda on the occasion of the wedding of His Highness the Gaekwar but also grand orations. Sir Madhava Rao, Mr. Melvill, and Sir Richard Temple made some very good speeches. We will quote the following from Sir Richard Temple's speech:

I venture to remind my native friends that the Mahrattas have a beautiful architecture of their own, architecture which in several respects have never been surpassed by the architecture of any race or nationality in India. It is unfortunate that at Nagpore and elsewhere some of the most beautiful specimens of this architecture have been destroyed by accidents; but its memories will survive, and I do hope that it will not be forgotten by the Mahratta nation, and that other gentlemen like Major Mant will arise and will embody it in designs to be prepared for palaces to come.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE bestowed the following encomiums upon Sir Madhava Rao:

Then gentlemen, I venture to add my expression to all that has justly been said by Mr. Melvill regarding the high reputation which Sir Madhava Rao's administration universally enjoys in Western India. I am sure that it is admired, not only by all neighbouring Native States of Western India, but is also highly esteemed by all those British officers who from their proximity or vicinity have knowledge of it. I rejoice that on this occasion so many educated native gentlemen should be present to hear such commendation publicly bestowed on Sir Madhava Rao (Applause.) I hope that the influence of his great and honourable example will stimulate all the rising and educated youth of our schools and our colleges to follow in his footsteps as far as their capacities or opportunities may allow them. (Applause.)

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE thus testified to the administrative capacity of the educated natives of India:

Now, my native friends much has been said of late years regarding the capacity of natives for administration as distinct from the judicial department. Everybody admits their aptitude for judicial services; many doubt their aptitude for administrative services, but I beg to say that I for one do not doubt your aptitude for administration. (Applause.) It were affectation if I were to tell you that you are likely to be as good administrators as Englishmen, for this plain reason that every nation has its specialities, and I believe it is admitted that the imperial governing power is one of those gifts with which Nature or Providence has endowed Englishmen. It is a gift the like of which has not been seen since the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Those of my native hearers who remember their classics which they learned in the University will recollect the line "*tu regere imperio populos Romane memento*," that is to say, "you Romans, recollect it is your destiny in the world to govern alien races." Now it is not likely that this gift is distributed alike amongst all races of men, and I cannot promise you that you will ever become as administrators equal to Englishmen. That I frankly tell you and you may believe me when I tell you with equal frankness that I believe you are nevertheless capable of becoming excellent administrators. I appeal to the entire history of India from the earliest ages down to the most recent times in respect to every race, every dynasty which has risen to power that there never has been a time when natives of India have not displayed high administrative ability. During the Hindu time there were many eminent Hindu statesmen; during the Mahomedan there were equally eminent Mahomedan and Hindu statesmen. It is sometimes said that during the British period there have been fewer eminent native statesmen than formerly, but that statement I venture to doubt. I say that in every part of India we are producing native statesmen of the good old imperial stamp, and I adduce as instances the cases of the ministers of Hyderabad, of Cashmere, of Travancore, of Gwalior, and last, though not least, I adduce as an instance Sir Madhava Rao himself. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I feel sanguine that when, by slow degrees, perhaps, but still ultimately, natives are admitted into the ranks of the Covenanted Civil Service, to which service I and Mr. Melvill are so proud to have belonged, that in that service also there will turn out hereafter to be many eminent native members. (Applause.)

Sir Richard Temple delights in paradoxes. He could not conceive that given the same conditions the Indian would make as good an administrator as an Englishman, for he must feed the Englishman's pride, but he could not at the same time ignore history and truth. And so he has made a compromise, which is, however, much beside the truth.

THE INHABITANTS of the chief towns of Poland are promised municipal institutions in January, and according to a despatch from St. Petersburgh to the *Daily News* the use of the Polish language is to be permitted in the sittings of the Councils. So the Polish wrongs are to be redressed by Russia.

SENTENCE OF DEATH has been passed on a Mussulman priest in Turkey charged with having assisted in the translation of the Bible into Turkish. Sir Henry Layard is stated to have strongly remonstrated against the infliction of the penalty and insisted upon the priest's release within three days.

AT ROCHDALE Mr. Bright passed the following glowing eulogiums on America:

All the countries in Europe add to the population of the United States. From every State in Europe there are streams of emigration or immigration flowing towards America, and much of this arises from the foolishness of European peoples and European Governments, all needless expenditure, all unnecessary and grinding taxation, every harsh and needless law, foreign policy which is foolish or wicked, and costly laws which bind up the land and cause the great bulk of the population to be absolutely divorced from it. Mr. Bancroft, the eminent American historian, in his admirable history says the history of the colonisation of North America is the history of the crime of Europe. And I would say now that the history of a considerable portion of the rapid growth of the population in the United States is a history of the follies and the crimes of the Governments of Europe in our time. From Russia, for example, where among other freedoms they have not yet learnt the freedom of opinion in religious matters, the intolerance of the Church and Government has driven large numbers of the population, notably a most peaceful sect, Mennonites by name, within the last few years to settle in the United States. The military system and the intolerable exaction of the Empire of Germany are constantly driving great numbers of Germans to emigrate to America. In this country the land monopoly, which constantly tends to diminish the population occupying the soil in Great Britain, that monopoly which by-and-by must fall, has had the effect of driving exact numbers—of which we have no accurate returns—of people and families to America and colonies who would otherwise have remained for ever industriously, and I hope happily, at home.

With REFERENCE to the reported discovery of Russian despatches and gold at Kabul, the Berlin Correspondent of the *Times* says: "The news of the discovery of so much Russian gold in the Treasury at Kabul, as detailed by your correspondent there in a letter published the other day, has caused no small sensation here. It is equally true that correspondence calculated to compromise the Foreign Office in St. Petersburgh was found by the English army among the papers of the captive Yakoob Khan." The *Nord*, sneers at the whole story as a *canard*.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JANUARY.

THE LATE Sir Walter Trevelyan, Bart., who was a total abstainer, left the valuable contents of his wine cellar to Dr. Richardson, an enthusiastic temperance advocate, for scientific purposes. The wine thus bequeathed comprises sherry of 1837, Maderia of 1818, claret of 1777, port of 1820, and various old wines of great value. In the January number of *Macmillan*, Dr. Richardson describes the history of the various wines, and comments upon the subject of the bequest. "I am instructed," he says, "to apply it for scientific purposes, and how to meet that necessity is the difficulty." He continues:

"It has been proposed to me in many humorous ways to dispose of the treasure. A late learned judge begged me to let her Majesty's judges give a solemn and decisive judgment on the merits of the choicer specimens. Another not less distinguished authority was of opinion that the bench of bishops would probably be a more competent tribunal. A great statesman put in his natural claim for one specimen at least 'of that old port.' Some of my brethren of the Fellows' Board of the Royal College of Physicians have intimated that at a college dinner the college might possibly form a diagnosis that would be of value, and for which nothing in the way of fee would be assessed. That admirable fraternity, of which I am a most undutiful member, and the Grand Order of the Freemasons, have not let me pass without a word. An enthusiastic and devoted disciple of temperance to the hilt would like to point a moral and adorn a tale by carrying the wine on a Thames steamer opposite to the two Houses of Parliament while those Houses are sitting, and discharging the whole cargo into the Thames, bottle by bottle, to the tuneful measure of the minute gun. The number of unfortunate widows and others disconsolate and afflicted who have applied for one or two bottles of the old port it would be difficult to name, in fact, long as I have practised the healing art, and teacher as I have been of therapeutical science itself, I had never until now learned to what a number of curative uses old port can be applied in the treatment of disease.

He thus concludes:

Meanwhile I have removed the treasure from its old resting-place and have replaced it in a similar vault with all due ceremony and care, and with scarcely an accident during removal. By this method it is preserved intact, and the antiquaries who are curious about wine may rest in peace until some ingenious suggestion of a practical kind breaks the charm, by showing how one total abstainer can make use of wine which another total abstainer has left him in trust for the purposes of science.

We would advise Dr. Richardson to make over the precious treasure to Ali Baba.

THE SUEZ CANAL COMPANY is suffering from the stagnation of trade between Europe and the East. The transit revenue collected in the first ten months

of 1879 from 1223 ships was £972,628, as compared with £1,041,042 collected from 1,340 ships in the corresponding period of 1878, and £1,092,424., collected from 1,381 ships in the corresponding period of 1877.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT shews how the State Railways are working in Bengal :

Name of Railway.	Length open.	Total Receipts from 1st January. To 30th Nov. 1878.	To 29th Nov. 1879.	Total increase in 1879.
	Miles.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Bengal ...	280	810249	1169503	359254
Tirhoot ...	76	395056	402446	7390
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	28	115233	120462	5229
Nalhati ...	27¼	82009	83544	935
Patna and Gya ...	57	.....	192285	192285
Total ...	418¼	1403147	1968240	565093

THE FUNERAL CORTEGE, which followed the remains of Mr. T. W. Gribble, Post Master General of Bengal, was a grand one. It consisted of the following gentlemen :

Hon'ble Justice Pontifex, Hon'ble Sir Richard Garth Hon'ble H. L. Dampier, Hon'ble C. T. Buckland, Hon'ble C. E. Bernard, Hon'ble A. Mackenzie Hon'ble L. Jackson, Honorable Pitt-Kennedy, Honorable Sewell White, Honorable H. L. Tottenham, Honorable H. J. Reynolds, Honorable W. F. McDonnell, Honorable J. O. Kinealy, Hon'ble Rivers Thompson, Honorable A. Wilson, Honorable L. P. D. Broughton, Dr. Cayley, Dr. A. J. Payne, W. Sonttar, Esq., J Lambert, Esq., R. B. Chapman Esq., A. W. Chapman, Esq, A. W. Croft, Esq., H. Cockerell, Esq., C. Macaulay, Esq., A C. Lyall Esq., W. Armstrong, Esq., J. P. Armstrong Esq., H. Bell, Esq., H. Beverley, Esq., T. Cumberledge, Esq., C. E. Daniell, Esq., Major Eckford, D. Fitzpatrick, Esq., F. Furgusson, Esq., D. Forsyth, Esq., Sir F. Haines, Major H. S. Jarrett. Colonel Charles Jhonson, Major G. Jackson, Dr. Jones, Dr. Bennett, Major Hills, Colonel Harrison, Colonel F. Graham, T. Gallian, Esq., R. T. Horsford, Esq., E R Henri, Esq, H. C. Levinge, Esq, Major Luard, C Morriss, Esq, E Morriss, Esq C. Moore, Esq. Major Newmarch, T Payne, E-q. H. Page, E-q, Major Pritchard, W Pigott, Esq, T Plowden Esq, Colonel Stanton, Revd C. Spring, M. Stewart Esq Colonel Staunsfield, Capt Sawyer, C Tawney, Esq, R. Turnbull, Esq. Alex. Wilson, Esq, W. Waterfield, Esq, Capt Wilkinson, T H. Webb, Esq., W. T, Wells, Esq, and J. B. Roberts, Esq.

THE MAHARAJ KUMAR of Betteah left Calcutta yesterday. He was granted the honor of an audience by His Excellency the Viceroy. He gave Rs. 5,000 for the supply of warm clothing for the troops in Affghansthan.

WE ARE GLAD to see it stated that Babu Durga Churn Law has given a donation of Rs. 2,000 in celebration of his nephew's marriage.

THURSDAY, 22ND JANUARY.

A FRIEND, who is at Saugur, writes that owing to foggy weather there were some serious accidents on the river on the night of Sunday the 11th instant. As he and his company were proceeding they were startled by the shrieks of some persons in distress. A jolly boat was sent in the direction from which the sound came, and they succeeded in rescuing two persons, a male and a female from a watery grave. These persons reported that in the fog their boat struck on a sand bank near Kotchoobari, some two or three miles above Sickarpore, and was wrecked. There were some 36 passengers in the boat, but the rest could not be traced. Next morning 8 more women were rescued by the manjees of another boat, these were first sent to Saugur, and thence to Calcutta by steamer. These persons were evidently pilgrims for Saugur. The Saugur Mela was this year a great success, foggy weather notwithstanding. There were about 80,000 persons present, who were carried in 2,000 country boats and 7 steamers. The general health of the pilgrims was fair, and none of the cholera cases ended fatally; theft and other crimes were comparatively rare. The visitors were put to great inconvenience and hardship for want of sufficient accommodation. Very little space had been cleared of the jungle and that little had been made less by the encroachment of the sea owing to the spring tide.

FOUR HUNDRED and eleven books, pamphlets and periodicals were received in the Bengal Library during the quarter ending 30th September last, of which 288 were uni-lingual, 50 bi-lingual, 4 tri-lingual, 1 quadri-lingual and 68 periodicals. The number of books and pamphlets in Bengali was 182, and those in English 30. The books and pamphlets in Bengali and Sanskrit were 35 and the periodicals in Bengali 44. The subjects of the Bengali publications are—religion and religious history 36, drama and poetry 56, science 17, fiction 9, and the rest biography, history, language and literature, and school-books.

WE HAVE received a manuscript from Golam Mahomed Khan of Bareilly treating of cholera and its causes. We are sorry that we cannot make room for it, but we hope the writer will not lose time in laying his views before the public.

WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE the receipt of a little Bengali book entitled *Nitipadya* by Babu Eshan Chunder Bose. It is a poetical reader intended to impart moral instruction to children. Books written solely with the view of improving the morals of children are rather scarce. The one under notice will, to our thinking, supply this desideratum to a considerable extent. Babu Eshan Chunder Bose's attempt, in our opinion, has been both opportune and successful. The fact of his little book having gone through a second edition within so short a time as six months testifies to the truth of our remark. The book, however, deserves a much wider circulation.

WE REGET to hear of the death of Colonel Sir Peter Filose, in the service of His Highness, the Maharajah Sindia.

HIS HIGHNESS the Maharajah of Ulwar was received this day at Government House by His Excellency the Viceroy. The usual ceremony was gone through. The Maharajah is an intelligent and well educated young man, simple in his habits, enlightened in his ideas, and amiable in his manners.

DOUAD SHAH, the Commander-in-Chief of the Affghan forces under Amir Yakub Khan, has been brought to Calcutta. He will be honorably treated, but we believe he will be to all intents and purposes a State prisoner.

FRIDAY, 23RD JANUARY.

THE RETURN of General Ulysees Grant to his native country was made the subject of a grand ovation at Philadelphia. The procession to greet him consisted of 70,000 men and 25,000 horses, and the number of spectators is estimated at quite a million. The tail of the procession, it is said, never started at all, night having set in before it came to their turn to "move on," although the first part started at 10 o'clock in the morning. Such is popular demonstration in America. Crowned heads seldom receive such honors even at the point of the Policeman's baton.

THE BENGAL HIGH COURT has issued the following circular :

The attention of the Court has recently been drawn to more than one instance in which Magistrates have held trials on Sundays. It has not hitherto been deemed necessary to enter Sundays in the published lists of close holidays, as no such recognition of the general practice of closing the civil and criminal Courts on these days appeared to be necessary. Cases must no doubt occur, in which an inquiry by a Magistrate should proceed even on a Sunday, or gazetted holiday, but, without the consent of parties and in the absence of urgent necessity, no civil or criminal trial should proceed on such days.

This is a proper circular, but no trial ought to be held on a Sunday even with the consent of parties.

THE PIONEER'S CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT SAYS : "The Government of India, I believe, would gladly see the College at Cooper's Hill also abolished; and it is generally thought that Colonel Chesney's 'hobby must really die of inanition ere long, in which case the supply of civil engineers would be drawn from the Roorkee and Calcutta Colleges." God speed the day !

THE SAME WRITER says : "Calcutta is decidedly going the pace just now in the matter of gaiety. Last week we had a State ball at Government House, a Volunteer ball, and an evening-party given by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, himself an indefatigable dancer." So the young Maharajah's visit to England has not gone for nothing.

THERE WAS a Garden Party at Belvedere last evening. As usual the gathering was large and the Lieutenant-Governor affable. The visitors looked out for General Douad Shah, but they were disappointed.

WE HAVE received rough proofs of Notes on the Grammar and Idioms of Lamb's tales from Shakespeare. The pages before us relate to Romeo and Juliet. Although we are opposed to crams of this kind, as we have repeatedly observed, we must do the author of the Notes before us the justice to say that they are excellent.

WE CONGRATULATE Rao Saheb Vishwanath Mandlik on his second election as Chairman of the Bombay Corporation. Dr. Pinkerton in bringing forward the motion said that the Rao Saheb had conducted the business of the Corporation "with great urbanity, suavity and in a business-like manner," and that he (the mover) "did not think any of the Rao Saheb's predecessors had deserved the confidence of the Corporation more than he had done." Mr. Dossabhai Framji in seconding the motion said that "the Rao Saheb had performed the duties of their Chairman with ability, independence and perfect impartiality." We believe this is the first instance of the same person being elected twice Chairman of the Bombay Corporation.

SATURDAY, 24TH JANUARY.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following from our Krishnaghur Correspondent :

Rome burns and Nero fiddles—so the saying goes. While there come wails of distress from Bongong and Meherpore the patriots and philanthropists of this district are busy with their preparations for agricultural exhibitions at Krishnuggur and Ranaghat. Are not these exhibitions indicative of wealth and prosperity of the country in which they are held? Do the promoters believe that with the prospects of dire distress staring them in the face they feel justified in wasting money for which very urgent need will shortly occur in two of the important sub-divisions of the district? We have the authority of Mr. Anderson late Sub-divisional Officer of Meherpore, for stating that owing to the inundations of the last rainy season, which destroyed the staple produce of the country, and scanty winter crops there exist harrowing distress in Kullumtur, within Meherpore. Very little of kalye has grown in this tract, while wheat, moshina and other crops are most likely to be meagre and straggling. Before leaving for Assam the Sub-divisional Officer urged the immediate necessity of relief and adequate preparation in time, for worse things are likely to follow some months later. The warning and appeal have been lost upon those to whom they were addressed, for nothing has been done as yet. The Sub-divisional Officer of Bongong gave notice in distinct and unequivocal terms that there is positive distress among the Bedyas, who under official orders are kept under strict surveillance and not allowed to move about in quest of food. For the relief of this unfortunate class the Deputy Magistrate applied for an immediate grant of Rs. 1,000, but his cry has met with no response. As regards the probability of wide-spread distress in summer months, the fact of scarcity being felt in the month of January, which is a month of plenty, makes it apparent. The relief fund lately started by Mr. Peacock, the Presidency Commissioner, consisting of Rs. 5,000, which is the amount of private contributions and it is to be supplemented by Government contribution of Rs. 10,000 in case of necessity arising, but you will be surprised to hear that the paltry sum of Rs. 80 only has been applied up to this date to the relief of distress in Kallumtar. I have heard that neither the Divisional Commissioner nor the District Magistrate has yet visited the country in the two sub-divisions above named, since the last inundation. It behoves Government at least to enquire whether the tales of distress are well founded.

THERE WERE 241 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 17th January, of which 15 were from cholera, 5 from small pox, 90 from fever, 28 from bowel complaints, 3 from accidents, 14 from convulsions, 13 from pthisis and asthma, 16 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Sixteen children were still-born and eight persons died from old age. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 14.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Maharajah Kishore Singh, the Commander-in-Chief of the Marwar Army, has started a Horse-race meeting at Jodhpore, which will be held in February next. The writer says : "It will be a grand gathering and several European friends are invited to witness the first races in a Rajpoot Principality."

WE ARE SORRY to learn that the Barahanagar Social Improvement Society is in a bad way. We have received a copy of a circular issued by Dr. Waldie, President of the Society, from which we give the following extract :

The Barahanagar Social Improvement Society has for several years past been in a languishing condition. The Committee, or those of its members who took such a degree of interest in it as to meet for the purpose of considering its affairs, attempted repeatedly to call general or annual meetings to decide what was to be done, but without success, as the attendance on such occasions was of the scantiest description. The few members of the society who have taken the trouble to interest themselves in its affairs, are desirous to terminate this state of matters and to decide upon some course to be adopted either for the dissolution of the Society or for some modification of its constitution and objects. Moreover the Society is the custodian of a Public Library instituted for the benefit of the community, and also the possessor of some amount of funds, and it is very desirable that it should be decided what is to be done with these and how they are to be taken care of, or disposed of.

Accordingly a meeting has been convened. We do hope that steps will be taken to infuse new vigour into this useful institution.

IT IS STATED that Mr. Lepel Griffin goes up to Cabul as Political Officer immediately. We cannot congratulate the Viceroy upon this selection. Mr. Lepel Griffin is a clever man, and as Secretary to the Punjab Government has had good experience of frontier politics, but has he the necessary qualities to replace Sir Louis Cavagnari ?

THE RESOLUTION of the Punjab Government on the report on Civil Justice for 1878 has the following :

"It would appear that three Judges in the Punjab perform as much judicial work (original and appellate) as five Judges in the North-Western Provinces, being 3,363 to 3,261. Such being the state of the case, the Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate that the Government of India will complain of the amount of work performed by the Judges of the Chief Court, while his Honor has every reason to be satisfied with its quality.

Does the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab sit in judgment over the local Chief Court ? No other local Government has yet gone to this length.

THE UNDER-MENTIONED native noblemen have been exempted from the operation of the Arms Act :

Shahzadah Ahmed Hulleemuzzaman—
a grandson of the late Tippoo Sultan and a Political Pensioner.
Sorab Jung, of Bankipore—
a member of the family of the late Newab Monseerooddowlah and a Political Pensioner.
Kumar Bhikhum Narayan Sing—
son of Sir Joy Prokash Sing, K C S I, Maharajah Bahadoor of Deo in the District of Gya.
Kumar Harendro Kishore Sing—
son of Rajendra Kishore Sing, Maharajah Bahadoor of Bettia, one of the Chief Landholders in the District of Chumparun.
Giraj Sen—
nephew of Saep Proladh Sen, Rajah Bahadoor of Ramnuggor, in the District of Chumparun.

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WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency and of its chief and subordinate ports with Indian Ports for 1878-79. 2. Report on the Administration of the N. W. P. and Oudh for 1878-79. 3. Report of the Directors of the Bank of Bengal for the half year ended 31st December 1879. 4. The Life of Alexander Duff D. D, L.L. D. Vol. II. By George Smith C. I. E., L.L D. 5 Vaccination Tracts Letters and Opinions of medical men. No. 1. 6. Ditto Historical and Critical Summary in 3 parts 7. Suggestions regarding Forest Administration in Ajmere and Marwara. By D. Brandis. 8. Journal of the National Indian Association, No. 109, January, 1880. 9. Statistics of the working of Indian Railways for half year ended 31st August 1878. 10. Annual Report of the Rajshye Association No. 6, for 1285 B. E. 11. Mensuration in Bengali. By Khetternath Bhuttacharjea. 12. Soobhunkori—or Indegenous Bengali Arithmetic. By Khetternath Bhuttacharjea.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, January 17th.—It is reported that the Turcomans have defeated the Russians at Tchikislar, which the Russians abandoned, and retired to their ships. The representative of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal denies that the Government has offered a settlement to the Nawab.

17th.—It is reported that General Roberts has received the Grand Cross of the Star of India.

19.—It is expected that Parliament will be opend by the Queen in person. It is rumoured that General Tergukasow has announced his intention of resigning his command. Obituary.—The Duke of Gramont.

20th.—The Hon'ble Mr. Stanhope, Under-Secretary for India, in a speech at Hackney, said that the financial position of India had improved, and that he regarded the forthcoming budget without apprehension. He believed the surplus revenue for the current year would cover the Afghan War expenses and the charges in connection with the new frontier Railway. The *Times* supports Mr. Stanhope's views. It is reported that Russia has offered to withdraw her troops from the German frontier at the desire of the Austrian and German Governments, Disturbances have broken out among the Kazan Tartars against the taxes, but they have been suppressed, and seventy arrests have been made.

21st.—The *Standard* publishes a telegram from St. Petersburg expressing an opinion as to the possibility of the British occupying Herat in order to prevent the Russian advance on Merv. The defeat of the Russians by Turcomans at Tchikislar is partially confirmed. The Home Rule Members in Parliament have resolved to prevent the work of the House of Commons unless attention is given to the condition of Ireland. The Banda and Kirwee booty case comes on again on the 28th January. Obituary.—Jules Favre.

22nd.—A colliery explosion took place yesterday at Leycett near Stafford, in which from seventy to ninety lives were lost. The Home Rule members have voted a motion of sympathy with the Irish peasantry proposed by Mr. O'Donoghue, and have resolved to adopt an independent attitude in Parliament. M. Vambery suggests that the British Government should annex Kandahar and revise the treaty of Gandamak. The *Standard* has published a telegram from Berlin, stating that the Russian Government is augmenting its garrison in Central Asia, and that the Division of Cossack Cavalry at Orenburg is to proceed to Tashkend.

22nd.—The defeat of the Russians by the Turcomans at Chikislar is not confirmed, and originated in the transfer of the Russian base of operations from Chikislar to Krasnovodsk. Consols 98⅜.

23rd.—The *Times* urges that it is the duty of the Indian Government to declare its intentions as regards the future of Afghanistan. It is reported that General Skobeloff will succeed General Tergukasow in Central Asia.

St. Petersburg, January 17th.—The Council of the Russian Empire is discussing the question of the introduction of municipalities into Russia. The *Invalide Russe* announces a further reduction in the Russian army and other pacific measures.

Paris, January 17th.—The programme of the new French Ministry includes the Ferry Laws and Bills relating to the Press, elementary education, and reform in the magistracy.

Berlin, January 22nd.—A Bill has been introduced by Prince Bismarck in the German Federal Council for increasing the German army by eleven Infantry Regiments, two Artillery Regiments and one Pioneer Regiment, besides thirty-one Batteries of Artillery, thus making a total increase of 60,000 men on war footing and 26,000 on peace footing. The Bill states that the measure is justified by the strength of the neighbouring States.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 29th Inst., at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Production of Sound.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1880.

THE COTTON DUTIES.

I.

DR. HUNTER'S OPINION.

WE have already said that Dr. Hunter's address at Birmingham was conceived in a much better spirit than his previous addresses. We noticed last week his views on Indian Finance ; we propose to notice this week the opinions he expressed regarding the remission of the cotton duties. On this subject we are glad to observe that he is quite at one with us. He traced the history of commercial legislation in India, and rightly contended that the Indian import tariff was retained solely with a view to its fiscal necessities. It has been modified from time to time as regards its rates, but it remains to this day on its original basis as a fiscal tariff. For purely financial purposes it was found necessary, up to 1875, to levy a general duty of 7½ per cent, on merchandise imported into India. "Pressure," says Dr. Hunter, "had soon been brought to bear upon the Indian Government to grant an exceptionally favourable rate to Manchester goods. By degrees the Indian Government had to yield to that pressure, not in the interests of the Indian taxpayer, but under the louder and louder demands of a powerful party in England. While as a matter of absolute fiscal necessity it retained its tariff up to 1875 at not less than 7½ per cent. on 78 out of the 84 classes of dutiable merchandise specified in its list, and for all other dutiable articles not specially mentioned, it had found itself compelled to let in Manchester goods, twist, and yarn at lower rates —some of them at less than one-half the normal tariff of 7½ per cent. which the financial exigencies of the country required. This was the state of the case up to 1875, when the depression of trade in England again led to the agitation of the question. Our Indian tariff, which had been organized by an English Freetrader, and organized by him for purely fiscal purposes, was accused of being a protective tariff as regards cotton goods. Now there are protective tariffs and there are fiscal tariffs. The Indian tariff had been framed by a free trade financier solely for fiscal purposes. A distinguished economist stated in Parliament that no tariff in the whole world, not even the Chinese tariff, which we had forced from that country by a war, was so favourable to British manufactures as the Indian import duties. It was, therefore, with surprise that we in India heard our tariff accused of being a protective one. We had always thought that if our tariff was unduly favorable to any class of goods it was to Manchester goods that this preference and this protection had been shewn, as we had let in the staples of Manchester at 3½ and 5 per cent. instead of at the normal tariff of 7½ per cent. But Lancashire is always able to get her own way with a British Ministry." This is perfectly true, and shews that Dr. Hunter had assumed too much when he had stated in his first lectures that England governed India solely with an eye to the good of India. How English influence acts upon India is thus described by Dr. Hunter : "If any new industry arises in India, or if any old industry obtains such a development as to inconvenience the English producer, then that manufacture must straightway be removed from the Indian tariff. Now in India the population has outgrown the productive powers of the soil, and the people's sole chance of a livelihood depends upon the growth of their manufactures and the opening up of new industrial outlets. But the position which Lancashire has assumed would render each new manufacture in India and each extension of an old one a loss to the Indian revenues, by compelling its withdrawal from the Indian Customs Tariff as soon as it became of sufficient importance to compete with the British manufacturer. Manchester has, therefore, forced the interests of English financiers in India into opposition to the industrial interests of the Indian people. This was a very painful position for the Indian servants of the Crown, who are honestly labouring to administer the finances of India in the interest of the Indian people. The Indian Government, realizing the danger which impended, said, "We shall reduce our whole tariff to so very moderate a rate that no party in England will venture to accuse it of being a protective tariff." So in August, 1875, the Indian tariff was reduced all round to a 5 per cent. tariff. Of the 80 odd classes of merchandise specified in the list, only two were let in at a lower rate—viz., iron at 1 per cent., and cotton twist or yarn at 3½ per cent. The result was that as trade became worse in England Lancashire again agitated for a reduction of the duty on its goods. In 1878 the Indian Government had again to revise its tariff, removing many articles to the free list and letting in the lower numbers of cotton twist free. But even this did not satisfy Manchester, and in March, 1879, all grey cotton piece-goods, however designated, and not containing yarn higher than 30's, were exempted from the Indian import tariff. What can the dumb unrepresented millions of India do against Manchester. It has been for them a losing battle from the commencement, and it will be a losing battle for them to the end." Quite so. But the Indians nevertheless feel the wrong done to them. In olden times it was the fabrics of India which clothed the Cæsars of Rome ; until lately it was the silk of India, which met the demands of Fashion in Europe, and it was the sugar of India, which used to sweaten the tea cups of the British workman. But under the blighting influence of England's commercial policy India's cloth trade, silk trade, and sugar trade are gone. And now that there is a revival of the cotton industry in India, the cotton manufacturers in England are doing their best to put it down. Of course the Indians are powerless, but they do not the less feel the wrong and injustice done to them. Dr. Hunter has the candour to say : "The people of India, although their poor, semi-articulate complainings have no chance as against the clear, persistent voice of Manchester, deeply feel the wrong, and bitterly resent it. Since 1869 I have attentively studied the Native Press, and my cheeks have sometimes flushed with shame at the justice of its complaints. When England wished to give an unusually spendid entertainment to a European prince, say the native journalists, it did so out of the Indian revenues. When England wished to make war in Abyssinia, it took the Indian troops and charged their pay to the Indian Exchequer ; and so on through a list of accusations, which are repeated in every newspaper, both Native and European, throughout all India. You do not realize in this country how the honour of England suffers from these accusations. The action of Manchester regarding the cotton duties has given fresh bitterness to such complaints. In order to let in Manchester goods free, or at low rates, Indian financiers have to keep up the old bad system of taxing Indian exports. Indian youths who come to complete their studies in this country assure me that a deep conviction is spreading throughout the thinking classes of their countrymen that the Indian finances are being dealt with in the interests, not of India, but of England." With all his zeal for the Government of India, Dr. Hunter cannot palliate this trait in its character. He, however, proposes a compromise. He says : "England has no right, while sanctioning the Indian tariff as a whole to forcibly withdraw from that tariff the very articles which made the tariff a profitable one for India. I believe there is a solution for this difficulty. I think it would be better for Indian financiers to offer to give up their import duties altogether. They should say to England. 'We have an import tariff, levied chiefly from British goods, which yields us in round figures a million and a half per annum. You English financiers levy from our Indian staples, tea and coffee, about a million per annum. 'Well, we are willing to give up altogether our Indian Customs Tariff of a million and a half per annum and let in all merchandise free, if you will give up the million which you levy from our tea and coffee and let in our Indian products free.'" He then goes into some calculations. We are quite agreeable to the proposal of Dr. Hunter. We, however, object to one part of his programme, the remission of the import duties on liquors and wines. We would retain these duties not only on fiscal but also on high moral grounds ; the less facilities are offered for the sale of spirituous liquors in this country, the better for the morals of the people. If heavy internal duties could be levied upon them, we would have no objection to the remission of the import duties. Be that as it might we note with great satisfaction that Dr. Hunter, though a professed advocate of the Government of India, not only finds it hard to defend it regarding the remission of the cotton duties, but considers it his duty to condemn it in as strong a language as any hostile critic has used. The

Government of India should bear in mind that its case must be desparate, when its own advocate condemns it so strongly.

II.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S OPINION.

There were many points of interest in the last presidential address of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Inglis, the present President, in noticing the License tax and the Famine Insurance Fund, went over the same ground which his predecessor Mr. Yule had traversed. But he was more outspoken about the remission of the cotton duties. He said, "it has been found that the changes in the mode of levying the duties introduced in 1878, and again last year, are productive of much unnecessary trouble to the customs authorities, of serious inconvenience, harassment and loss to importers, and generally of great anomalies. Cases have been brought to the notice of the Committee where of two cloths made in the same mill and almost essentially alike in weight, price, make, and appearance, one is admitted duty free, and the other subjected to an impost of five per cent., simply because of a slight difference in the fineness of the yarn of which one of them is made as compared with the other. The consequence is, as might be expected, that the manufacture and import of duty free goods or of fabrics made to resemble such is daily increasing, and that of dutiable goods is diminishing. At present the change presses with greatest severity on standard makes of cloth of known quality which cannot be altered to suit the new Custom House rules, and if some relief be not afforded, these will be gradually driven out of the market." It will be thus seen that the remission of the cotton duties last year has not been to the advantage of commerce. Several proposals have been made to the Chamber on the subject, and with regard to them Mr. Inglis remarked: "My own sympathies are entirely in favour of a return to an all round duty on imports of cotton goods. The old duties were in no proper sense of the word protective, and the concessions which were made were yielded, as Dr. Hunter in his recent able address at Birmingham has so well pointed out in the interests of Lancashire rather than of India. If the state of the public revenues permitted, we should all rejoice to see these and all other duties abolished entirely, but we seem to be very far indeed from being even in sight of such a desirable consummation. Such being the case, Government, in deciding on this matter, ought to look solely to the state of the revenues and to the interests of this country. The principle the Government both here and in England should follow in this and all other matters relating to India is that enunciated by the Hon'ble Robert Lowe in a recent speech at home: "I believe there is no principle more true or more just than that Government is not to see how it can longest stay in office, but how it can do the most good for the country." It would be a happy thing for India if both the great political parties in the State would constantly act on this principle." Mr. Inglis thus concluded:

It is argued by those who are in favor of the abolition of the duties that the poorer classes of this country would reap the benefit in cheaper clothing; and assuming this would be the result, I admit that is a thing desirable in itself. Looking, however, to the admitted impossibility of reaching that class of the population who now ultimately pay the cotton duties by means of any system of direct taxation hitherto devised without causing serious discontent and oppression and to this other fact that the cotton duties, as levied prior to 1878, were not in any sense regarded as a grievance by the class chiefly affected by them—I mean the native consumers of cotton cloths—I cannot but think it was a very grave error on the part of Government to move one single step in the direction of their abolition at a time when it was clear the sacrifice of revenue from this source involved the levy of other imposts of a much more obnoxious kind. The course of action then entered upon has brought Government face to face with the alternative now presented to them of either confessing error, and boldly retracting their steps, or of abolishing the duties entirely. In the interests of this country, I certainly think the former course would be the right one to pursue; but if other interests are allowed to prevail, as I fear they may, and the duties are swept away entirely, then I hope that, instead of seeking for a substitute in any new fangled schemes of taxation, Government will equalize by levelling up, and if need be enhancing the salt duties all over India to the extent required to recoup the loss of revenue sustained in giving up the cotton duties. I am not insensible to the objections likely to be urged against this course; but I think if the poorer classes of natives get the benefit of the abolition of the one duty in cheaper clothing, as I make no doubt they would do, they can afford to pay a little more for a necessary like salt, and would themselves far rather pay it in that way than in any other. Nor with a license-tax affecting incomes above Rs. 500 levied specially for a protection against famines could it be justly charged against the Government that they were letting off the better classes from paying their fair share of taxation at the expense of their poorer neighbours.

Before leaving this subject of customs tariffs, I may say that I should be very glad to see Dr. Hunter's suggestion for the abolition of custom houses as between England and India carried out. I doubt, however, if the revenues of either country can at present afford the sacrifice, or if the scheme limited as Dr. Hunter proposes to two countries only is workable, but it would undoubtedly be a great thing if the ports of both countries were declared free for the admission of the respective products of each. I hope it is not an altogether Utopian idea, but one we may see carried out some day on even a wider scale than Dr. Hunter proposes.

These remarks of Mr. Inglis are indeed refreshing, but we do not agree with him that the salt duties should be increased with a view to afford relief to Manchester. We need hardly say that we have no sentimental objection to the salt duty; we have always supported it as the least objectionable part of the Indian fiscal system, but we confess it would be a questionable morality to tax the poor of India in order to benefit the cotton lords of Lancashire. It is not correct to say that the poor of India were at all inconvenienced by the retention of the cotton duties. They consume coarse cloths, and as it was held that the duty on those goods had a protective tendency they had been remitted. Practically the burden upon them was scarcely appreciable, and as there was a plentiful supply of country goods of that description, they did not pay the cotton duty. It was the richer classes, who paid the duty on finer goods, and surely it could not have been consistent with justice and sound policy to have reduced the burthen, whatever it was, upon the rich. The proposal of Dr. Hunter has however a different scope. He advocates reciprocity between England and India in commercial taxation. He suggests that the ports of England and India should be thrown open to the staples of both countries. So long as this is not done, it cannot be fair or just to tax one country for the benefit of another. The import tariff as Dr. Hunter conclusively shews is a fiscal tariff, and as long as the financial position of the country does not admit of its abolition, it ought not to be done away with.

III.

THE INDIAN COUNCIL'S OPINION.

IN connection with this subject we may review the opinions recorded by the members of the Indian Council on the despatch of the Secretary of State, approving the action of the Viceroy in the matter of the reduction of the cotton duties last year. The Council of India was equally devided on the subject, to wit:

Ayes, 7.	Noes, 7.
Secretary of State.	Mr. Dalyell.
Mr. Cassels.	Sir B. Ellis.
General Foster.	Sir F. Halliday.
Sir H. Maine.	Sir R. Montgomery.
Sir H. Rawlinson.	Sir W. Muir.
General Strachey.	Sir H. Norman.
Sir W. Merewether.	Sir E. Perry.

It would be seen from the above that it was the casting vote of the Secretary of State, which carried the day. Strictly speaking the majority of the members present were against the measure, but the Secretary of Sate had two votes, which consequently defeated them. But the moral victory was with the opponents of the measure. The dissenting members wrote strong minutes, from which we will give a few extracts. Sir Frederic Halliday wrote:

I consider that the measure in question was wrong in the sense of being inopportune.

I think also that it was inexpedient that the Viceroy should, for such a purpose, put into operation the power he undoubtedly possesses of overruling his Council in any matter which he may judge to affect the interests of India.

I agree entirely in the opinion expressed on the whole question by Mr. Rivers Thompson in his Minute of 15th March 1879.

Mr. Dalyell concurred in the above and added:

As a member of the Commission on Customs Duties in 1873—74, I opposed the abolition of the cotton duties, until all export duties had been remitted, and I am still of this opinion.

Sir Robert Montgomery opposed the remission of the cotton duties, because in his opinion "it was a needless sacrifice of revenue at a time when there was a deficit in the treasury." He remarked:

It was done, moreover, when we were engaged in war with Afghanistan; and when of necessity a great and increased expenditure was being incurred.

Further, the reduction was made against the earnest remonstrances of a majority of the Viceroy's advisers; men, who, from their position,, and with great experience, were well acquainted with the needs and requirements of India.

Sir Henry Norman referred to the previous despatches of the Secretary of State to the Government of India in which the instructions were that the cotton duties should be remitted or reduced when the state of the finances would admit of the same. He then remarked:

What has been done is, not to obey, but rather to fly in the face of these orders, and to remit about 200,000 *l.* annually of these duties when, taking the view of the Government of India itself, the finances were in a very bad condition, and when there was a clear deficit. In fact the duties have been abolished when the finances are in such state that we are borrowing largely, stopping to a great extent useful and productive public works, and by other measures of severe economy inflicting serious hardship, and in some cases almost ruin on various deserving servants of the State. We are also threatening further taxation.

I believe that the political effect in India of this reduction of the cotton duties under these circumstances has been extremely bad, and that this effect will not readily pass away.

I would add my conviction that in overruling the majority of his Council on this occasion, the Viceroy was straining the law to an extent that is very undesirable, and that in my experience is unprecedented.

Sir Erskine Perry wrote: "I think the remission of cotton duties at that period was most inopportune, and that the overruling of his Council by the Governor General was unconstitutional, and a dangerous precedent for the future if allowed to pass unnoticed." As a lawyer Sir Erskine Perry discussed the constitutional question at length, and we reproduce with pleasure the following remarks from his minute:

The remission or retention of a tax yielding 200,000*l* may be considered comparatively unimportant, but changes in the procedure of Government which has prevailed in India for centuries, and which, according to my view, has been framed in conformity with the views always prevailing among the English nation as to the necessity of placing a check on the exercise of arbitrary power, ought not, in my opinion, to pass without notice.

I think it will be found on a close examination of our political institutions in India that from the first establishment of a factory at Surat careful provision has been made sometimes by statute, more frequently by usage, to guard against arbitrary conduct by individuals, or what is called in modern language, personal government.

It has been recognised that in India as in other Asiatic countries, the Government cannot be other than despotic but checks of all kinds have been devised to restrain despotic acts by individuals. For this reason it was that all the local governments have been vested in a President and Council acting by a majority of votes, following in this respect the example of our predecessors the Portuguese. For the same purpose a minute supervision of every action of their servants in India was conducted by the Court of Directors, and the provisions introduced by that body for the recording and transmission to England of every document relating to political action were subsequently embodied in an Act of Parliament.

For the same purpose the Act of 1858, although it has thrown upon the Secretary of State (most properly, as I venture to think) the entire responsibility of action, lays down in most precise language that he shall never act (except in two excepted cases) until after he has consulted with his Council. And herein is to be seen the fundamental distinction between the Council of India and the Councils of the Governments of India; the former is simply a consultive body, the latter with their Presidents constitute the actual governing authorities in India.

Any statesman going out from Europe to fill the high position of Viceroy must necessarily be far less acquainted with the wants, feelings, and interests of the people of India than the Councillors with whom he is associated. It is quite fitting in moments of emergency when the State is in danger and instant decision is required, that the Viceroy, trained in the statesmanship of Europe, should have an uncontrolled power of action; but on domestic matters such as the present case, where the expediency of the Act depends on full knowledge of the people of India, I cannot think that it is in the interests of good government that the Viceroy's proceedings in overruling his Council should be approved. I may add that I have caused search to be made in the Department for any record of a similar exercise of power in a question like the present, but nothing can be found.

We cannot sufficiently admire the broad and enlightened views which Sir Erskine Perry has taken of the whole subject. Sir Barrow Ellis was of opinion that the action of the Government of India was opposed to the previous instructions of the Secretary of State, and remarked:

In fact the course adopted was at variance with the spirit of the former decision, and with the recorded speeches of successive Secretaries of State, for at no time since the question was first mooted did the state of the finances so ill admit of a reduction of our resources. Taxation had recently been imposed for providing for the cost of famines but the proceeds of the taxes raised were in part applied to meet the general deficit; it follows that but for the abolition of the duties, so much less taxation would have been needed, and thus virtually the remission has been effected by taxing the people of India.

I need not go into the subject at greater length; the Minute recorded in the Governor General's Council by Mr. Rivers Thompson fully sets forth the reasons which compel me to dissent from the paragraphs above referred to.

Sir William Muir has gone into the question fully. He justly remarked that it was the adverse exchange rather than the duty which depressed the export trade of Lancashire with India. He then pointed out that the balance of trade is a potent element also, and must affect the English merchant irrespective altogether of the specie difficulty. Sir William continued:

The only effectual relief to the adverse balance of trades lies in either—

(*a.*) Reducing the payments due by India to England; or,—

(*b.*) Increasing its exports trade. Whatever tends to do either, or both, of these things will ease the trade of England.

The reduction of the cotton duties at the present time runs counter to both principles. It tends to increase the debt; it fails to stimulate the export trade.

In order to benefit English trade, the 200,000*l.* (if available) should have been devoted, not to lowering the cotton duty, but first of all, to taking off the export duty on rice. That, indeed, would have brought a real advantage both to India and Lancashire; export would have been stimulated; the exchange bettered; and increased profit reached the English trader. As things at present stand, the more England exports, the worse for the English merchant; the more India exports, the better. For the adverse balance, weighted by the former, and not eased by the latter, is one of the causes now tending to wither the cotton market here.

India, it is said, needs and will have the goods of Manchester. It will, but more or less according to the price. If the producer is to realise 10*l.*, as before, for his consignment, he must in the face of a falling exchange raise his price in India from 100 rupees to 120 or 130; and on these terms India will take less and less. Her own producer, all the while, can afford to sell at the old price; and therein lies his real protection.

The argument applies to all reductions of established taxation. To take off such taxes (even if they be otherwise objectional) at a time when we are also borrowing, is only to increase our debt, and by so much aggravate the burden upon trade. Accordingly, I hold that the lowering of the salt duty at the present time was injudicious. The pressure of that duty was hardly felt; and even if it had been felt, the time was unpropitious. The gain to the Cheshire exporter and others is dearly bought by the corresponding addition to our debt, and the serious evils resulting therefrom; I would therefore qualify the praise, otherwise most justly given in this Despatch, to the Government of India for its salt arrangements. In any case, the reduction should have been postponed till we had ceased to borrow; and, then, the first surplus should have been devoted to sweeping away, at the earliest moment, the export duties still remaining.

But I cannot approve any Budget which continues to impose a cess on land, as is now the case in Upper India, unbalanced by a corresponding tax on other sources of income. I have already, in Minutes of 1877, placed my views on record on this subject, and need not repeat them now. In the matter of the Viceroy's overruling his Council, the law appears to have been strained beyond its manifest intention. How the object came to be magnified in the Viceroy's eyes, so as to warrant exercise of the extraordinary prerogative, it is not easy to understand. Still the law leaves the occasion absolutely in the Viceroy's discretion, and that seems all that can be said of the matter.

These minutes show that the traditional spirit of the late Court of Directors to govern India for its own sake, independent of party considerations, still animate the majority of the members of the Indian Council. They are fully alive to their own sacred responsibilities and also to those of the British nation to India. The majority we refer to comprise three members of Lord Northbrook's Government, Sir William Muir, Sir Henry Norman, and Sir Barrow Ellis. Sir William Muir was the immediate predecessor of Sir John Strachey, and as an ex-financier of India his words ought to carry great weight on an Indian financial question. To his knowledge of finance he unites large Indian experience and most generous sympathies for the people of this country. Sir Henry Norman and Sir Barrow Ellis belong to the same school of Indian politicians—right-minded, just, and generous. Sir Frederic Halliday we are glad to observe has taken the side of the people in this matter. Sir Erskine Perry as usual comes forward as the champion of constitutional law, right and justice. His minute does honor to his head and heart.

The mass of opinions which we have collected above shews in what a false position has the Government placed itself by overriding law, morality and justice in surrendering to Manchester what in right and equity belonged to the people of India. The reader can easily guess what will be the verdict of history upon this conduct of our Government in this matter.

THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN IN ENGLAND.

THE Indian campaign in England is progressing. For the most part the Liberals had hitherto the field to themselves; the Conservatives have now entered it. These had stolen a march at Manchester, when Lord Salisbury took the command, but the counter-move made by Mr. Bright routed all their forces. The scene of operations of the Conservatives was now laid at Leeds. Three principal members of the force were engaged in the action, Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Bourke, and Mr. Stanhope. Sir Stafford spoke about the Affghan war, and assigned a new cause for it. He said, "there is naturally an anxiety among the people to know what is passing there, to know what is our policy with respect to that country, and what is the present prospect of our affairs. Well, gentlemen, I believe that the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the North-Western frontier of India has been declared clearly and emphatically over and over again. It is a policy of defence and not a policy of annexation. It is a policy which aims at securing our people in India from vain alarms of movements and invasions from outside; it is a policy which is adapted not only for the high Imperial objects of the Empire, but in a special degree for the quieting of the minds of the people of India, so that they may not think that there are dangers of changes and dangers of wars such as they might feel it difficult to prevent; and, therefore, it has been with a view to the better protection of that frontier and to the improvement of the security of our people in India that we have undertaken the policy of the last year with regard to Affghansthan." Really, this is a novel and ingenious excuse. The people of India were agitated by false alarms of war and rumours of war, and in order to set their minds at rest the Affghan expedition was undertaken! But did they want a war with Affghansthan? Did they wish that their revenues should be burdened with an unprofitable expedition? What has been the opinion of the Native Press on the question? If it reflects popular opinion, has it not in unmistakeable language pronounced itself against the war? What has been again the opinion of the rspresentative Associations of India? Have they not been arrayed against the war? And yet we are told that the war has been undertaken to quiet the minds of the people of India. Poor people of India! They are made the scape-goats for all manner of things done by Government as well as by enthusiasts. Sir Stafford Northcote remarked: "I believe that since we have been the rulers of a great part of India—since we have had a predominating influence over the whole of the Indian Peninsula, we have, on the whole, amid great difficulties, and with occasional mistakes, done our duty by the people of that great empire—that we have largely conduced to their social and material advancement. And I say that, whether we may have made mistakes here or there in detail, the general policy that we have pursued has been a policy framed and calculated for the good of those to whom it is applied." Yes, the policy of the present Government has been directed solely to the good of the people of India. Their freedom of opinion has been fettered by the new Press Act, and they must be grateful for this beneficent law! Their right to carry arms has been clogged, so much so that they cannot ward off dangerous animals from their fields and homes, while the Eurasians, one of whom lately distinguished himself by firing at the Viceroy, have been exempted *en masse*, and they (the people of India) must be grateful for this discriminating measure! The cotton duties have been lowered for the sake of the Lancashire manufacturers, as Englishmen themselves say, and the people of India burdened with an oppressive license tax, and they must be grateful for this just and benevolent measure! Manchester is jealous of the cotton mills of India, and a bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council of India, practically for the repression of cotton industry here, and the people of India must feel grateful for this kind act! The British Parliament and Crown had repeatedly pledged the employment of competent natives in the higher offices of the State by their unrestricted admission into the Covenanted Civil Service, and the present Government has created a sham yclept the Native Civil Service, and the people of India must feel grateful for this perpetuation of their political degradation! This is the policy which has been pursued for the "good" of the people of India, this is the way the present Government "has largely conduced to their social and material advancement," and they must feel grateful for it! We are no less sorry than surprised that a statesman of Sir Stafford Northcote's breadth of mind and impartial disposition should have stooped to such disingenuous party-tactics to make capital of India.

We now turn to Mr. Stanhope's speech. He descended to particulars. He undertook to answer Mr. Gladstone, and he pronounced him wrong in all things. He said: "If it were possible now for me to do it, I could easily shew you that when he came to deal with Indian finance, he was no less inaccurate. Don't be afraid, gentlemen. When anybody in the House of Commons says he is going to talk about Indian finance, there is a general disposition to move towards the door but I ask your permission to give you one single instance; and, remember, it is not in the power of many people thoroughly to understand Indian finance. Therefore when a statesman of the experience of Mr. Gladstone addressed a meeting of his fellow-countrymen, it is his duty in the statements which he makes to influence public opinion to take reasonable care that those statements are accurate. Now, he suggests that the present Government have added about £10,000,000 a year to the expenditure of India. Well, if he had only looked at the other side of the account, he would have seen that the receipts are increased almost in an equal proportion, and he would have found that nearly the whole of this increased charge, with the exception of something like a quarter of a million, is due first of all to changes in the form of the accounts, and, secondly, to the depreciation in the value of silver. And this, remember, in a year which he has specially chosen for comparison, and when we have to meet a wholly unexpected expenditure in relation to the war in Afghanistan. But I am not going to be tempted into party recrimination in regard to Indian finance, because I protest against the notion, now a little to common among the Liberal party, that capital is to be made out of the subject of Indian finance." We agree with Mr. Stanhope that the condition of Indian Finance this year is not quite so bad as it is supposed, but what is the Government of India about? Instead of remitting taxation, is it not perpetuating the obnoxious License tax? Again:

All our best statesmen of recent date have agreed to place questions relating to India outside the sphere of party politics. I remember very well that one of the most experienced of those statesmen, addressing us on the question this year in the House of Commons, wound up an eloquent peroration by saying that he at any rate desired no such miserable gratification. That statesman, gentlemen, was Mr. Gladstone (cheers and laughter); and I appeal from the "heedless rhetoric" of the hustings to Mr. Gladstone speaking in the House of Commons under a due sense of responsibility. (Hear, hear.) I protest, then against any attempt being made to excite the feelings the alarms and the jealousies of the people of India, for the paltry purpose of trying to gain a few votes in England. (Cheers.) Again our opponents are very fond of telling you that Indian finance is in a state of hopeless confusion. Now, don't you believe a word of it. (Laughter and cheers.) Indian finance must always receive, and I hope always will receive the greatest possible care and attention; but there is nothing—and I speak to you under a full sense of responsibility—there is nothing in its present condition that need cause us any particular alarm. Our silver difficulty has diminished. We have had in India a very excellent harvest; we have very largely diminished our expenditure in that country; and I look forward without any apprehension, in spite of the enormous war expenditure which of course we have to incur to the budget of next March. (Loud cheers.) Now I have a word to say on another attack made upon us with reference to India. We have been reminded of two Acts which the Government of India recently passed—one of which placed restrictions on the free use and importation of arms and of explosives; while the other, in consequence of seditious writing, imposed restrictions on the vernacular Press of India. Both of these Acts have been recently assailed by that great orator, Mr. Gladstone; both of them have worked exceedingly well however much we must all of us regret, as I certainly regret, the necessity for adopting such legislation at all. But we can recollect, most of us that no longer ago than the year 1870 another Government felt it to be its duty to pass Acts relating to another portion of the empire of a very stringent character, and in those Acts were contained conditions, first of all for dealing with the Press of the country, although written in the English language; and in the second place imposing very severe restrictions on the possession of fire-arms and ammunition. The Government that introduced that legislation was the Government of Mr. Gladstone (cheers and laughter); the part of the Empire to which it applied being Ireland. And it is very difficult to understand why it is so wicked, so very wicked (laughter), for a Conservative Government to sanction Acts for India which the Government of that country declares to be necessary for the public safety and which are analogous to those that Parliament in its wisdom has thought fit to pass for Ireland. I say, gentlemen, it is very difficult; but Mr. Gladstone has given us the reason and it is this:—There are no snakes in Ireland (laughter and cheers), and there are snakes in India. But Oh! how lamentable it is that a great man should be urging a crowd of Hindoos to go out with blunderbusses to accomplish a

purpose for which no fire-arms are required instead of imitating the example of St. Patrick, who if we are told aright, extirpated the same pests in Ireland by the simple power of his eloquence and was canonized in consequence. (Laughter and cheers) And now gentlemen, I have but a few words to say to you (cries of "Go on") on the subject of the Afghan war, which was alluded to in this town by the Duke of Argyll (groans), it seems to me for the purpose of accusing Lord Salisbury and Lord Lytton of falsehood and also of puffing his own book (Laughter.)

Mr. Stanhope accused Mr. Gladstone of party rancour, but what does the above indicate ?. Does it imply judicial impartiality ? Or does it not imply gross party prejudice when he censures an English statesman of Mr. Gladstone's position, because he advocates the cause of India and condemns measures, which he conscientiously considers to be opposed to the best interests of India ? And yet Mr. Stanhope sought to convince his audience that he held the balance of justice with an even hand !

LOCAL RATES IN ASSAM.

THE ASSAM GAZETTE of the 20th ultimo contains a very important enactment. It is a Regulation passed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General for the imposition of local rates on Assam. The objects to which these rates will be applicable are (1) the construction, repair, and maintenance of roads and other communications, and the improvement of river channels; (2) the maintenance of the rural police and district posts; (3) the construction and repair of school-houses, the maintenance and inspection of schools, the training of teachers, and the establishment of scholarships; (4) the construction and repair of hospitals, dispensaries, lunatic asylums, markets, wells, tanks, and rest-houses for travellers, the payment of all charges connected with the purposes for which such buildings or works have been constructed, and any other local works likely to promote the public health, comfort, or convenience. Of the total net sum realized in each district by these rates, after paying expenses, three-eighths may be set aside by the Chief Commissioner for expenditure on works or undertakings of general provincial utility. The remaining five-eighths of the rates will be spent exclusively within the district itself, unless, under very special circumstances, the Government of India require a contribution to be made from this district allotment for famine purposes; but such contribution will in no case exceed one-fourth of the net proceeds of the rate, and, for the present, the Government of India have intimated that no such contributions will be required from Assam. As the principle of local taxation for local purposes has been recognized throughout the empire, the people of Assam cannot justly complain against the new impost. It is not, however, fair that the whole burden should be thrown upon the land. The scheme of assessment adopted in the Regulation in our humble opinion is not quite just. It is an acreage tax to be assessed upon the annual value of land, which is to be ascertained in the following manner:

"Annual value," used in respect of any lands, means the following (that is to say) :—

(*a*) where such land is liable to be periodically re-settled at full rates,—the land-revenue for the time being assessed on such land ;

(*b*) where such land is situate in any place other than the permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara, and the land-revenue of such land has been wholly or in part released, compounded for, redeemed or assigned,—twice the land-revenue which at the current rates of the district for temporarily-settled estates would be assessable on the cultivated portion of such land, less by any reduced revenue payable thereon ;

(*c*) where such land has been permanently-settled and is assessed to land revenue,—two rupees for each acre of such land ;

(*d*) where such land is situated in the permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara, and the land-revenue on such land has been permanently released, compounded for, redeemed or assigned,—two rupees for each acre of such land, together with a sum for each such acre equal to the average rate of incidence per acre of the land-revenue assessed on the recorded area of the permanently-settled land within the same pergunnah :

Provided that when any land to be valued under sub-clause (*c*) or sub-clause (*d*) exceeds four hundred acres in area, or is assessed to land-revenue at not less than one hundred rupees, and any portion of such land has not been cultivated for three years, the annual value of such portion shall not be deemed to exceed the annual profits derived by the landholder from the same :

Provided also that when any land has been acquired under a grant or lease made in accordance with any rules issued by, or under the authority of, Government for the grant or lease of waste lands for the cultivation of tea, coffee, or cinchona, the annual value shall be ascertained in the following way (that is to say) :—

If the grant or lease has been made under the rules for the lease of waste lands in force at the date of the passing of this Regulation, the revenue payable under the conditions of the grant or lease shall be deemed to be the annual value of such land ;

If the grant or lease has been made under any other rules previously in force for the grant or lease of waste lands, it shall be ascertained what would have been the revenue payable at the time of assessment if at the date of making the grant or lease the rules now in force for the grant or lease of waste lands had been in force, and such revenue shall be deemed to be the annual value of such land ;

Or in either of the above cases, if the landholder prefers it, the land actually under cultivation within the boundaries of the area granted or leased during the year previous to the assessment of rates under this regulation shall be assessed as if it were land paying full rates of land-revenue, and such assessment shall be deemed to be the annual value for the purposes of this Regulation.

This proviso shall not apply to land sold under any rules issued by, or with the authority of, Government for the sale of waste lands revenue-free, or to any lands, leased under any rules for the lease of waste lands of which the revenue payable under the lease has been subsequently commuted, redeemed, or compounded for.

The Regulation makes two invidious distinctions. In the first place where the land exceeds four hundred acres or the land revenue Rs. 100 per annum, the uncultivated lands are to be exempted from assessment, but why not in all cases ? The gravest objection to an acreage cess is that cultivated and uncultivated lands, and good and bad lands, are assessed alike. Under the Assam Regulation the poorer the man the greater will be the burden upon him, for in his case uncultivated lands will not be exempted. In the second place a marked favour is shewn to tea lands. The land-revenue levied on tea estates is very low, and yet that is to be made the measure of assessment, but in permanently settled estates each acre will be valued at two rupees. We think that by far the more equitable plan would have been that of the Bengal Cess Act. The assessment under that Act is levied on profits from land. In the case of the zemindar the rent represents his profits, and in that of the ryot his profits are assumed to be equal to the rent payable by him. In the same manner the actual rent-roll might have been made the basis of assessment in all cases, except tea lands, the profits of which could have been ascertained from the books of the planters. The apportionment of assessment between the landlord and tenant under the Regulation is also not fair. It is to be made in this wise :

When a rate is levied under this Regulation from a landholder in respect of any land under sub clause (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), or (*d*) of clause (5) of section two, and such land is held by a tenant of such landholder at a rent less than the aggregate of the annual value of such land and the revenue (if any) payable in respect of the same, such landholder may realize from such tenant a part of such rate bearing to the whole of such rate the same ratio as the excess of such aggregate above such rent bears to the annual value.

Illustrations.

(*a*). A is the holder of land of the description mentioned in sub-clause (*a*) of clause (5) of section 2, of which the land-revenue is Rs. 100. The annual value is therefore Rs. 100, and the rate at one anna per rupee would be Rs. 6-4. The land is held by tenant, B, at a rent of Rs 150. Then 100 : (200—150)=50 : : Rs. 6-4 : Rs. 3-2. A may realize Rs. 3-2 from B.

(*b*). A is the holder of land of the description mentioned in sub-clause (*b*) of clause (5) of section 2, on which the land-revenue payable is Rs. 50, and on which the full land revenue at current rates would be Rs. 100. The annual value is therefore Rs. 150, and the rate at one anna per rupee would be Rs. 9-6. The land is held by a tenant B, at a rent of Rs. 150. Then 150 : (200—150 50 : : Rs. 9-6 : Rs. 3-2. A may realize Rs. 3-2 from B.

(*c*). A is the holder of one hundred acres of land of the description mentioned in sub-clause (*c*) of clause (5) of Section 2. The annual value of such land is therefore Rs. 200, and the rate at one anna per rupee would be Rs. 12-8. The revenue assessed on the land is Rs. 50. The land is held by a tenant, B, at a rent of Rs. 100. Then 200 : (250—100)=150 : : Rs. 12-8 : Rs. 9-6. A may realize Rs. 9-6 from B.

(*d*). A is the holder of one hundred acres of land of the description mentioned in sub-clause (*d*) of clause (5) of section 2. The average rate of incidence per acre of the land revenue in other permanently-settled land in the same pergunnah is eight annas. The annual value of such land is therefore Rs. 250, and the rate, at one anna per rupee, would be Rs. 15-10. The land is held by a tenant, B, at a rent of Rs. 125. Then 250 : (250—125)=125 : : Rs. 15-10 : Rs. 7-13. A may realize Rs. 7-13 from B.

The inequality of assessment is apparent at every step. In illustration *a* the division of assessment is half and half, in *b* it is two-thirds and one-third, in *c* it is one-third and two-thirds, and in *d* it is again half and half. This inequality is invidious. The Bengal plan is certainly equitable, for under it the incidence is equal upon both the landlord and the tenant. We cannot understand why the mode of assessment and its distribution adopted in the Cess Act of Bengal has been followed in Assam. The method of calculations given in the illustrations quoted above is not only not based on a just principle, but will we fear lead to much confusion in practice. If there is yet time, we would recommend a revision of the Regulation.

AGRICULTURAL REFORM IN INDIA.

I.

SUCH is the title of a most interesting and thoughtful paper written by Mr. Allan Hume, who was Secretary to the Government of India in the late Department of Revenues, Agriculture and Commerce, and who is now Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces. The subject is of paramount importance to the welfare of the people of this country. More than four-fifths of the entire population of India depend upon land for the means of subsistence ; while at the same time agriculture is undoubtedly in backward state. We have no doubt but that "a systematic improvement in its agriculture might prove a remedy for many of India's present troubles." It is, however, a great pity that the question does not receive the amount of public attention which its importance demands. Recent famines have now revived, to a slight extent, the feeble interest which has occasionally, in past times, been evinced in regard to agriculture in India ; and a more favourable opportunity for discussing the subject in all its bearings than the present could not be conceived. Mr. Hume points out that if "our revenue from land is to undergo any very marked development, and to bear hereafter that proportion to the rest of our revenues that in the times gone by it has always borne, it is to an increase in the produce of the land, to an improved system of agriculture in fact, that we must look." He then goes on to say :—"And here it is due to the patient, frugal, and not unintelligent husbandmen of India to admit freely that, looking to the conditions under which they labour, their ignorance of scientific method, and their want of capital (and all that capital enables a farmer to command), the crops that they do produce are, on the whole surprising. So far as rule-of-thumb goes, the experience of 3,000 years has not been wholly wasted. They know to a day when it is best (if only meteorological conditions permit) to sow each staple and each variety of each staple that is grown in their neighbourhood ; they know the evils of banks and hedges, dwarfing the crops on either side and harbouring vermin, and will have none of them ; they accurately distinguish every variety of soil, and, so far as the crops they grow are concerned, the varying properties and capacities of each, they fully realise the value (though they can command but little) of ordinary manure, ashes and the like, and recognise which are most required by which kind of crops ; they know the advantages of ploughing in most cases as deep as their imperfect implements and feeble teams will permit, and of thoroughly pulverising the soil, and they also recognise where, with a scanty or no supply of manure, it would be folly to break the shallow-lying pan. As for weeds, their wheat fields would in this respect shame ninety-nine hundreths of those in Europe. You may stand on some high old barrow-like village site in Upper India, and look down on all sides one wide sea of waving wheat broken only by dark green islands of mango groves—many many square miles of wheat and not a weed or blade of grass above six inches in height to be found amongst it. What is to be spied out creeping here and there on the ground is only the growth of the last few weeks, since the corn grew too high and thick to permit the women and children to continue weeding. They know when to feed down a too forward crop ; they know the benefit of, and practise, so far as circumstances and poverty permit, a rotation of crops. They are great adepts in storing grain, and will turn it out of rough earthen pits, after twenty years, absolutely uninjured. They know the exact state of ripeness to which grain should be allowed to stand in different seasons, in other words, under different meteorological conditions, to ensure its *keeping* when thus stored ; and equally the length of time that, under varying atmospheric conditions, it should lie upon the open threshing-floor to secure the same object. *Imperfect appliances, superstition, money troubles and the usurers' impatience, often prevent their practising what they do know, but so far as what*

may be called non-scientific agriculture is concerned, there is little to teach them, and certainly very few European farmers could fettered by the same conditions as our ryots to produce better, if as good, crops.

The italics in the above passage are ours. The fiery advocates of agricultural reform in India should carefully bear in mind that, so far as non-scientific agriculture is concerned, our rulers have nothing to teach to our peasantry. This, if we remember rightly, was fully recognised by Lord Canning and Lord Mayo. Agricultural reform in India, in plain words, means the introduction of scientific agriculture—a circumstance we must not forget in discussing the subject. That the introduction of scientific agriculture will be productive of incalculable good to the country may be readily conceded. But the question is—How can this desirable result be brought about? In order to teach scientific agriculture to the people of India Lord Mayo contemplated the establishment of an Agricultural Department. A department called the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce was created with Mr. Allan Hume as Secretary. To those who ask how the existence of this Department has been compatible with such an entire neglect of agricultural reform, Mr. Hume answers that there never *has been any real Agricultural Department in India.* There was, he says, a Miscellaneous Department of the Government of India, which, amongst its various titles, bore the word "Agriculture," but that Department could not, from the nature of things, exercise any potent influence on the agriculture of the country. He explains what the so-called Agricultural Department really did; and how it could do nothing to reform Indian Agriculture. On the creation of the new department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, the administration of the Forest Department was transferred to it from the Public Works Secretariat. From the Military Department was transferred all business connected with studs and horse-breeding and from the Financial Department the management of salt matters. The Etcetera Department, moreover, took from the Home and Foreign Departments the control of all matters connected with Land Revenue settlements in the regulation and non-regulation provinces respectively; and from the Home Department was transferred the administration of several other branches. Thus, the new department was charged with a good deal of the work done by the then existing Secretariats of the Supreme Government. Mr. Hume argues "that with such an inordinate variety of questions to deal with, with such a vast mass of operations of the most diverse kinds, to direct, control, or supervise, no small department, with a single Secretary and Under-Secretary, could possibly find time, after disposing of current work that inevitably came before it, to make new work, such as any effective action in the direction of agricultural improvement must involve." And then the Department was, from the first, so constituted that it could not deal either directly or efficiently with agricultural matters. Mr Hume writes:—"Lord Mayo's conception was one thing, the sadly modified scheme that as the result of vehement opposition he was compelled to accept, another. Lord Mayo accepted this as a sort of instalment, as a grant of ground on which he might later build what was necessary, but no one was more thoroughly alive to the fact than himself, that in the shape in which his cherished project ultimately saw the light, it afforded little or no prospect of material improvement in agriculture. He believed that in a few years this might all be changed, and had he lived, this might have been so, but he fully realized the position, and his invariable reply to protests on this subject were: "We must have patience; it will all come right." Lord Mayo clung, however, to the ideas of ultimately making this really a Department of Agriculture, but the Secretary of State did not approve of even this. Lord Mayo named it the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce. The Secretary of State objected to this, said that Revenue, and not Agriculture, was the main object of the Department, and ordered the name to be altered to "Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce." It was distinctly laid down that the officer appointed to the post of Secretary in the new Department should always be chosen on account of his knowledge of the subjects connected with revenue, rather than from any knowledge he may possess of agricultural or commercial matters." Well might Mr. Hume remark:—"It will be seen therefore that as constituted, this Department never was and never was intended by the Home Government to be a Department of Agriculture. Lord Mayo hoped to convert it into this, but with his death India lost the warmest, most competent, and, at the same time, most influential advocate for agricultural reform. No change such as he contemplated, has ever been made in the constitution of the Department, and succeeding administrations have only made the official bonds more rigid, and converted its chief more and more thoroughly into a mere desk-tied Secretary." Mr. Hume himself admits that the Etcetera Department of which he was the head, did nothing, and as constituted could possibly have done nothing to promote agricultural development. Such being the case the Department has very properly been abolished by Lord Lytton. Indeed, the creation of a new Department was not necessary to relieve the then existing Secretariats of their work. The cost of the Department for eight years cost the tax-payers a great deal of money which has literally been thrown away. We had from the first protested strongly against the constitution of the Etcetera Department, because we knew well that it would do nothing to promote agricultural reform. We quite agree with Mr. Allan Hume in thinking that "in improved agriculture lies the one reasonable hope of extricating ourselves from our difficulties." He observes: "It is one of those incomprehensible instances of determined national blindness of which history records too many similar examples, but it is a fact that landlords of an estate, let on comparatively short leases, with a gross rental of seventeen millions, with the full knowledge that the gross mass of our land is yielding less than two-thirds of what it should and would if properly cultivated, we would absolutely in practice refuse to take one single material step towards remedying this lamentable waste of our property." But then we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that under existing circumstances, the introduction of scientific agriculture in India would be almost impossible. The importance of improving the primitive system of agriculture pursued in this country will be readily acknowledged by every person possessed of a grain of common sense. But how is this to be done? Mr. Allan Hume has, in the paper under notice, propounded a scheme for promoting agricultural development. As we have already exceeded the limits of a single article, we will return to the subject in our next issue.

STATE WELLS IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

THE question of constructing wells with the aid of state advances as a protection against the terrible sufferings which result from insufficient rainfall in tracts not provided with canal irrigation, has for some time past been under the consideration of the Government of the North-Western Provinces; and the recently published note of Sir Andrew Clarke and the reply of Mr. E. C. Buck to the views put forward by the Public Works Minister have drawn public attention to the subject. The initiative in this matter was taken by Mr. C. P. Carmichael, Commissioner of the Benares Division, and until lately Officiating Junior Member of the North-West Board of Revenue. About two years ago when, in consequence of prolonged and widespread drought in the North West, the Kharif crops had generally proved a total failure and the fate of the rabi had been trembling in the balance, Mr. Carmichael addressed the Board of Revenue, pointing out that the Land Improvement Act "was inapplicable to the state of things in the North-Western Provinces; that there were insuperable obstacles in the way of its successful operation; that practically there was no class of proprietors well enough to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the Act to improvement; and that even if there were, the action of any individual would be impeded by that of the brotherhood." An opinion was at the same time emphatically expressed to the effect that if any thing was to be done in this direction, it must be done by authority. It was proposed that Government should construct wells gradually and systematically in non-irrigated tracts, landowners being made to pay 5 per cent. on the outlay and allowed to recoup themselves by levying a water-rate from the tenants who get the water. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Carmichael again wrote to the Board on the subject, suggesting that "tracts of country should be selected in one or more districts of a division, funds from the Land Improvement Fund placed at the disposal of the Commissioner, and a regular and thorough system of well-irrigation should be carried out carefully under his directions." The Local Government came to the conclusion that "tracts in which there is now deficient irrigation, in which therefore there is certainty of great distress, if not of famine, in times of drought, in which, however, for physical or other reasons the introduction of canal water is not contemplated, in which, moreover, the construction of unbricked wells owing to substrata of soil is impossible, it is desirable to construct such a number of masonry wells as shall protect a sufficient area, and yet shall yield beyond the indirect return of a country saved from famine, a direct return of a direct profit on the outlay." The Board of Revenue was, accordingly, desired to select a tract in which wells could be made with the certain prospect of proving remunerative. After a great deal of discussion it was decided to try the experiment in a tract in the Cawnpore district. Mr. F. N. Wright formerly settlement officer and now Magistrate-Collector of that district, was deputed to investigate the condition of the tract in question, and was authorized to undertake the construction of a limited number of wells experimentally, the sum of Rs. 25,000 being placed at his disposal for the purpose of making advances to the zemindars "under rules somewhat more liberal than those which regulate the ordinary tuccavi advances."

The question is one of general and paramount interest; and we are glad that Sir Andrew Clarke has taken it up. The Government cannot be too careful in making zemindars construct wells with the aid of state advances. Mr. Justice Cunningham, in his capacity of President of the Famine Commission, has recorded a memorandum on the subject. He thinks that "all the best places have been taken up already; the tracts where there are no wells now are those the agriculturists have found it impossible or unremunerative to build them." Mr. Wright, however holds a different opinion. He was specially instructed to investigate—"Why, if wells are the profitable investment as they are alleged to be, do not landowners and cultivators rush to protect themselves from famine, and even to put money into their pockets?" Mr. Wrights' report has not been published; but the *Pioneer*, to which it has been communicated, informs us that to his thinking "the inaction of zemindars is due to want of intelligence, apathy, distrust of the *tuccavi* rules, poverty and minute subdivision of property; the cultivator is affected by similar conditions—want of funds, possible insecurity of tenure, scattered holdings and so on."

There can be no manner of doubt that, as pointed out by Mr. James Caird: as the result of his enquiries in his capacity of a member of the Famine Commission, that where well irrigation is attainable and the water good, no other irrigation in India can compete with it. Its great advantages are that "each man can use it when and how he pleases, and as he must keep bullocks for the labour of his land, and he and his family do most of the work, they hardly feel the cost of lifting the water." There are many other considerations which should not be lost sight of in discussing the great question of wells *versus* canals. The advantages of well-watering over canal irrigation are evident to all persons who have paid any attention to the subject. In the first place, the construction of a canal requires a skilled and costly European staff; and a canal necessarily traverses districts or portions of districts where there is already an adequate supply of wells, rivers or large jheels. The passage of a canal through such tracts means a sheer waste of money and power. In the

second place, canal irrigation injures the fertility of the land, as has been conclusively proved by the late Colonel Corbett in his *Climate and Resources of Upper India*. "Canals and irrigation," says the Colonel, "are doing more than any thing else to destroy the agricultural prosperity of the country and to reduce land formerly fruitful to a state of sterility." This language is, doubtless, strong, but not at all stronger than what truth demands. Colonel Corbett gives the following extract from a letter addressed to him by an experienced indigo-planter:—"The produce in canal-irrigated lands in my opinion, will be worse yearly; what with sowing the same seed, and with this constant cropping and flooding, the lands are being thoroughly exhausted. I remark yearly a great falling-off of leaf, and this, by the bye, appears to be increasing. Canal plant grows too quickly; it is, in fact, forced, and it consequently cannot draw sufficient support from the soil fast enough to keep pace with its rapid growth." Mr. E. C. Buck, the Director of Agriculture and Commerce, N. W. P. and Oudh, has been obliged to admit all this. In his note on Colonel Corbett's *Climate and Resources of Upper India* he writes:—"It is certain that years have passed during which canal-water has been undermining the fertility of the soil which it has irrigated without any notice having been taken of the process, until suddenly our revenue administrators have been startled to find that in certain tracts of canal-irrigated land, rents cannot be paid and crops have ceased to grow." This admission, be it remembered, comes from the head of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Mr. Buck states that many Native landholders and cultivators have told him the following:—"When the canal first came into our village we thought our fortunes were made. For two or three years the village was a garden; but year after year we have seen the crops grow shorter and the ears become lighter until now our outturn is far less than when we had no canal at all." This is a grave indictment against canal irrigation. It is all very well to contend, as the champions of canals do, that the evil effects of canal-irrigation pointed out by Colonel Corbett have proceeded from the cultivator's persisting in double cropping without adequate manuring. But it is a stubborn fact that the Indian peasantry cannot command an adequate supply of manures. In the third place, wells do not generate malaria as canals do. Since the construction of canals the most salubrious places in the Upper Provinces which had been looked upon as sanataria, have become fever-stricken like the most swampy districts of Lower Bengal.

Such being the case, we have been watching with great interest the experiment of constructing state wells as a protection against famine, which is being tried in the Cawnpore district under the auspices of Mr. F. N. Wright, C. S. The experiment could not have been entrusted to better hands. Mr. Wright possesses a thorough knowledge of Cawnpore, the settlement of which was conducted by himself. There is every reason to hope that he will select the tracts of land where the experiment can be made with the greatest possible advantage. But Mr. Wright cannot be too cautious in proceeding with the work. It is easy to declaim against the stupidity, apathy and short-sightedness of Native landholders and cultivators. The average Anglo-Indian thinks that the Native must be forced to introduce so-called reforms and improvements. But this is a great mistake. Convince the Native cultivator that he will be a gainer by adopting a new system of cultivation or a new crop and he is sure to give up his old ways and take to a fresh path, if the limited resources and means at his command permit of his doing so. We would earnestly warn Mr. Wright against assuming that the Native is so stupid and apathetic that he must be made to incur the expenditure of sinking wells at places which he (Mr. Wright) might select. Though no scientific men, Native landholders and ryots are intelligent enough to understand their own interests. It would be productive of incalculable mischief if official pressure were brought to bear upon them to induce them to make wells in tracts where they feel assured that the investment would not be the least remunerative. Much depends upon the success of the experiment, which has been entrusted to Mr. Wright's hands. If he can make it successful, an important question will have been solved. We earnestly hope that no contempt for the empirical knowledge gained by Native landholders and cultivators from the experience of 3,000 years will be allowed to interfere with the success of the important experiment, which is being tried in the Cawnpore district.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

NEVER has the present Government of India performed a gracious act in a more graceful manner than the concession it has made in respect of the Durga Puja holidays. When we read the original order of the Government of India cutting down the Durga Puja holidays from twelve to four days, notwithstanding the loud remonstrances of the people and the strong recommendation of the local Government to the contrary, we confess we were taken completely aback. But we had felt convinced that His Excellency the Viceroy must have given his assent without being fully apprized of the character and tendency of the measure, to which his sanction had been obtained, and that he would do justice to us if the matter were properly represented to him. Simla is impervious to public opinion; there was no one there to represent to His Excellency the gravity of the step taken, but the moment His Excellency breathed the healthy atmosphere of the seat of public opinion, his eyes were opened. The initiative was taken by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur, C. S. I., to whom our best thanks are due for his exertions in this national cause; he brought to the notice of His Excellency the deep feeling of dissatisfaction, which the reduction of the Durga Puja holidays had caused among the native community at large, and as His Excellency was not prepared to find so much irritation and discontent among the people in a matter, in which the Government could have no feeling one way or another, and in which there was no question of imperial policy involved, His Excellency at once resolved to look into the papers himself and also to make enquiries about the matter. After a full and patient enquiry His Excellency was satisfied that the original order was hasty and uncalled-for, and so with the consent of his colleagues in the Council and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency has restored the Durga Puja holidays intact. Loud are the blessings of the people for this gracious act of His Excellency. It originated from him direct, and be it said to the credit of his colleagues that not one of them opposed it. It could not of course be expected that the Viceroy would have time to look into every thing with his own eyes, for we feel confident that if all measures connected with the internal administration of the country had the benefit of a scrutiny which His Excellency's unbiassed judgment and generous instincts could give, there would not be much room for dissatisfaction. We are particularly glad that this decision of the Viceroy was arrived at before any outside pressure was brought to bear upon Government. The British Indian Association had prepared a memorial for circulation in the districts, but the welcome news of this spontaneous action of Lord Lytton rendered any further public movement unnecessary. May Durga grant Lord Lytton long life, success and happiness is the earnest and devout prayer of all Hindus!

THE WAYS of our legislators are mysterious. The Factory Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, which consists we believe of six or seven members, not one of whom is a native gentleman. This Bill will affect two hundred millions of native Indians, and there are three native members in the Vice-regal Council, but the mover of the Bill has not thought fit to nominate one native member to the Select Committee on the Bill. Properly speaking all the three native members should have been put upon the Select Committee on a Bill of this kind, but they have been wholly excluded from it. So much for the representation of native views and opinions in the Indian legislature!

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, it is rumoured, will resign and go home with a view to enter Parliament. We believe there is good foundation for this rumour, but we do not think that he will leave India till the end of this year. If one can judge Lord Beaconsfield's movements from a distance, we do not think His Lordship will hasten a general election, and until the final blow is struck by His Lordship we do not think it will be necessary for Sir Richard Temple to leave India. By the time he will vacate his high office in Bombay he will have completed the fourth year of his Governorship. Rumour points to Sir Ashley Eden as the probable successor of Sir Richard at Bombay, but we believe nothing has yet been settled. Although Bengal will lose, Bombay will certainly gain, if Sir Ashley goes there, but no one knows what the Ministry will do. Will it be so unselfish as to forego the temptation of patronage and not to burden India with a broken down peer?

WE HAVE seen the several numbers of the London *Statesman*, which have reached India, and we congratulate Mr. Knight on the success which he has already achieved. It has been brought out in a style quite equal to any first class hebdomedal in London. Its literary resources seem to be very great, and its opinions on all classes of public questions are expressed in a clear and vigorous manner. We are not surprised to learn that it is already highly appreciated by the leaders of the Liberal party in England. They consider it a new accession of strength to their party. Mr. Gladstone we hear has written in very flattering terms to the editor. To the people of India the paper is of special value, as a good portion of it is devoted to Indian questions. There is an "Indian Section" in the paper, in which Indian questions are thoroughly discussed. India is sure to command much attention in the coming elections, and an organ of Indian opinion in England conducted by men, who have made India their special study, cannot but be of great advantage to it. This is just the time when all the political forces of India should be combined to secure Indian questions a fair hearing. We would therefore call upon our educated countrymen throughout the country, who at all care for their father-land, to come forward and give their united support to the new journal. Those who have money ought to subscribe to it, and the subscription is so low—Rs. 15 per annum—that it is within the reach of all classes of the Indian public, and those who have only the intellect to give should contribute to its columns. Strike while the iron is hot—ought to be the motto of our countrymen. If they let slip the present opportunity for the amelioration of the political condition of their country, we fear that opportunity may not come again.

SIR STEUART BAYLEY has come to the capital for the purpose of consulting with the Viceroy about the future of the Naga country. We believe the difficulty in the settlement of the Naga question is that the Nagas have no head men with whom our Government could deal directly. There is no unity among the Nagas, and our Government cannot therefore be sure of any compact with them. It must make its own arrangements for the security of the frontier. We understand that Sir Steuart Bayley will soon hold a Durbar in honor of the Raja of Munipore, who rendered loyal and effective assistance in the suppression of the Naga outbreak. We believe rewards will be offered to His Highness the Raja of Munipore for his loyal services.

OUR OLD friend Dr. Ralph Moore has addressed the following letter to the *Indian Daily News*:

I have frequently suggested to my Native friends that they should have a representative in London, and, at the present time one would be of much service to this country. We are on the eve of a general election, which, from all appearances promises to be well contested; and, no doubt, the affairs of India will be considered by the constituencies, especially the conduct of the Afghan war, and the management of India

generally. *Should* the people of this country neglect the present opportunity, the post of Viceroy of India will in all probability, be given as a reward for party services irrespective of any fitness for high office on the part of the recipient. Lest my *friends* might think I want the appointment I have proposed I beg to say I would not accept any paid office, though my advice as hitherto, will always be at the service of the people of India either here or at home.

We entirely agree with Dr. Moore. This is just the time when all India should unite and press Indian questions upon the attention of the electors of the United Kingdom. India has already attracted much attention in England, and will doubtless attract more when the elections will actually commence. Dr. Moore's note of warning has been sounded in time.

A FAREWELL dinner was given to Sir Andrew Clarke, the Minister of Public Works. Sir Andrew, in responding to the toast drunk to his health, said :

I was selected for this duty. The country was new to me. Its vast area, its varied conditions and requirements, the system of its governing machinery, the men by whom it was served, the conflicting interests and diverse views all demanded close and careful study. For two years I waited and watched. I had no precedents to guide me, and the magnitude of the interests at stake forbade the risk of mere experiment. Three more years have passed, they have been, as you, Sir, have said, years of great financial depression and difficulty ; but though that has, of course, cramped the development of Public Works, it would not have interfered with the carrying out of any radical change of system had such been in reality found to be necessary.

Sir Andrew's confession was candid. He spent two years in learning his work, and for the remaining period he could do very little owing to financial pressure. So the money paid to him has been simply thrown away. Sir Andrew latterly sought to reform the P. W. D., but he has not been able to accomplish much. If the scheme for the retirement of public works officers is his, we fear it will do more good to his brother officers than to the tax-payers of India.

WE HAVE noticed in another column the presidential address of Mr. Inglis at the last half-yearly meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Inglis spoke in no uncertain language. He roundly condemned the reduction of the cotton duties. With regard to the License tax he said :

I am sorry, the Government still seem to think it desirable to persevere with the proposal to merge the proceeds of the license-tax in the general revenues of the country, and to abandon the scheme of retaining a separate famine insurance fund. There can be no doubt that the only thing which reconciled the public to the tax when it was first imposed, was the proposal to apply the monies which it yielded for the relief and prevention of famines. Nothing which has occurred during the last two years should cause any change in the policy of Government in this respect so far as I can see. It may be said that at least two disturbing elements have emerged which were not foreseen when the scheme of a famine insurance fund was proposed, *viz*, the silver difficulty and the Afghan war. The former of these, however, is not new and although the loss by exchange in consequence of the depreciation in silver has increased, more good will be done in endeavouring to meet the difficulty while it lasts by judicious reductions in expenditure as, I am glad to think is now being done, than by appropriating funds required for another purpose to meet the deficiency thus created. As regards the expenses of the Afghan war, these are not a proper charge upon the current revenues in my opinion, even supposing India was to bear them. I for one am most strongly opposed to the Imperial policy which led to this war, and think it will be most unfair if India has to bear the cost of it, when so far as I can judge, there was absolutely nothing in the circumstances of this country to warrant Government in embarking on the course which led to it but rather everything to counsel an opposite policy. If the invasion of Afghanistan was necessary to support the prestige of the Home Government in their quarrel with Russia, the people of England who supported their policy should pay the bill Putting this aside, however, war charges are usually provided for by loan, and I can see no justification for applying the proceeds of the license-tax to such a purpose.

We entirely concur. In the present state of the finances there is no necessity for retaining the License tax. If it is, however, to be retained as a part of our fiscal system, its proceeds ought to be set apart as a statutory fund for famine purposes.

SIR ARTHUR HOBHOUSE'S reply in the column of the *Times* to General Strachey's letter, which we noticed last week, is a poser. He has given all the facts connected with the remission of the cotton duties, and asks :

How does the passing of a fiscal measure come to be an Executive and not a Legislative Act ? There would not have been the chance of passing such a measure through the Legislative Council, who do their business in public, and the Governor General cannot overrule them. But by an accident, which suggests that Indian Acts should be more carefully drawn, the Executive Government are empowered in general terms to remit taxes. The power is very useful, and is used for temporary occasions, or when there is no doubt or difference about the matter. But the remission of a tax may thereby be made an Executive Act. And Lord Lytton availed himself of the circumstance to remit a tax raising a most important question of principle, on which nearly all Indian opinion is against him. Mr. Stokes, the Law Member of Council, does not hesitate to call these proceedings a fraud upon the law. I add that we should not have dared so to treat our very smallest and weakest English dependency. So much for the statement that the Government of India has declared the repeal of the cotton duties to be for the benefit of the people of India.

As for the Famine Insurance Fund our readers are well acquainted with the facts of the case, and we need not therefore reproduce them. Sir Arthur in conclusion says :

I never expected to convince him or any one else who has had a hand in the transactions which I arraign. Like General Strachey himself, I appeal to the people who are "possessed of ordinary intelligence, and power of reasoning." Those people, not being blinded by prejudice, I do expect to convince. I expect hard words in the process, but that is the lot of all who utter disagreable truths about powerful men.

But hard words break no bones. The battle of truth has always been hard, and the champions of it should be prepared for all manner of rough handling. But they are sure to win at the end.

LETTERS from England, which we have received by last Mail, bring the melancholy intelligence of the death of Dr. Khetter Mohun Dutt. He was suffering from a disease of the tongue, and received the highest medical aid. Dr. Lister, Sir James Paget, Sir Joseph Fayrer, and several other eminent Surgeons gave him their most valuable assistance, but their skill was unfortunately of no avail. He breathed his last about the middle of December, leaving a devoted wife and six children to mourn his loss. He was a remarkable man ; he was entirely self-taught, and although he began to pick up his English when he had passed his teens, his progress was wonderful and his mastery over the language marvellous. He had, indeed, a faculty for language ; he knew Bengali, Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, English, German and French. His intellectual capacity was of a very high order, and he was a thorough master of his own science, we mean the medical science. But he was of an adventurous character ; if his moral qualities were in keeping with his intellectual powers, he would have been far more successful in life. He was domiciled in England, where he had resided for more than twelve years. He used to evince a lively interest in his father-land and used to take an active part in the East Indian Association. He used to write for the London Press constantly regarding Indian matters. His remains were interred at the Kensal Green Cemetry. We offer our sincere sympathy to his sorrowing widow and children.

Darlington's Pain-Curer has been found to be a certain cure for Pain on the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Tightness of the Chest, Bronchitis, Diptheria, Headache, Toothache, Earache, Deafness of the ear, Neuralgia Colis, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Sciatica, Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Swellings, Old Sores, Ulcers, Piles, Ringworm, Pimples Freckles, & Eruptions on the skin. May be had retail or wholesale, direct from their Establishment, 49, Dhurrumtollah-street, Calcutta.

KABUL NEWS.

(From the Press Commissioner).

Calcutta, January 19.—On the 17th 500 men under Colonel Boisragon successfully crossed the Kabul river by rafts at Kam Dakka, and occupied Reina. A reconnaissance four miles down the river showed the road to Polosi to be easy and level, and the country quite deserted. No enemy could be seen. On the morning of the 18th Reina was burnt, and the force recrossed to Kam Dakka. Another small party rode straight to Lalpura. Not a shot was fired on the 17th or 18th. The enemy's loss on the 15th cannot be less than about 60 killed and as many wounded.

20.—Information from Afghan Turkestan states that Gholam Haidar's power there is much weakened by rebellion. No news has been received of Abdul Rahman, and the report of his arrival in Balkh, which came out some time ago to India form England, has not yet been confirmed from any other source.

From Kabul it is stated that the reports of fresh gatherings still continue ; nothing very definite at present ; the opposition appears to be concentrating at Ghazni.

In the Mohmand country some of the malcontent Chiefs and Mullahs across the Kabul river are still endeavouring to keep up the recent agitation among the tribes.

All is quiet in the Kuram Valley.

21.—All quiet in the Khaibar and on the Mohmand border. There have been occasional meetings of the border tribes, but the frontier generally is tranquil. Active intrigues continue around Ghazni and in the Logar Valley, where excitement and disorder still prevail. Among the tribes generally in that direction, the feeling is said to be one of suspense and anxiety. The Shinwaris still hold aloof from the solicitations of the Mullahs, and a gathering in Lughman has been dissolved by the Governor, who is supported by our Jelalabad troops. The sons of the Mustaufi have come in to Kabul and have visited General Roberts. General Gough's Brigade, is getting comfortably housed in the Bala Hissar. The defences on the hill above are being rapidly strengthened. An excellent bridge has been thrown across the Kabul River by the 23rd Pioneers on the direct road from Sherpur to Siah Sang. Construction of roads in different directions is progressing satisfactorily.

21.—The convoy of ammunition and warm clothing reached General Roberts on the 18th.

22.—The Latest telegrams from Kabul give no particular news, except that reports from Logar are more satisfactory, and matters are reported quiet in the Lughman valley.

23.—*From Kabul, January* 22.—The Bala Hissar has been brought into telegraphic communication with Sherpur. Supplies are being brought in fairly well. Gularam and other malcontents are doing their best to keep up excitement in Logar but no serious disturbance is reported either from there or Kohistan. Mulla Mushki Alam has gone to his own village, about six miles from Ghazni. Mahomed Jan's whereabouts is still uncertain. Some reports say he is in Kattiwaz, others that he has gone to Ghazni. From the Ghazni direction news comes of further fighting between the Hazaras and Ghazni insurgents.

From Kandahar.—A Ghazi was killed just inside the gate of the fort on the 17th, while attacking a Sergeant of Engineers, who was unhurt. He is supposed to be a Talibul-ilm rom the country North of Kelat.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 24th January, 1880.

Our markets during the week just closed have exhibited some encouraging features and business promises to be more hopeful for the future.

IMPORTS.

This market has evidently maintained its previous firmness, and higher rates for cotton fabrics and Twist have been eagerly demanded by holders to meet the present prices of the producing markets on the other side which rendered transactions limited.

Piece goods.—Greys continue to find buyers at last rates but for small quantities, save 50 and 54 inches makes.

White T. Red and Prints.—Have been in demand : higher rates were obtained.

Twist.—There has been some animation in this market, owing to speculation, purchases and sales by dealers, chiefly in import 40s, which have obtained 2 to 3 pies higher per morah.

Local manufactures have also found ready buyers at enhanced rates.

EXPORTS.

Exports have had their attention and such transactions took place as commodities and prices would permit.

Indigo.—The season has almost drawn nigh to a close and a considerable quantity of the crop of 1879-80 cleared out of the market and a week more will bring its operation to an end.

Tea.—The season for this article is drawing to a close.

Jutes.—The shortness of the crop for 1879-80 is now telling clearly and severely on the trade. The delusive statements which were published sometime ago have done serious mischief to the trade and several of our local mills and balers will suffer heavily for relying on those statements. The stocks have almost been exhausted and prices forced up to famine rates Rs. 4-8 to 5-12 from low to good.

Rice.—In Rice the following transactions are reported to have taken place,

Table sorts,

Seeta ...	...	500 tons at 4-12 @ 4 14
Gross ...	...	1,000 „ at 3-12 @ 3-14
Ballam	...	25,000 bags at 2-12 @ 3-8
Raree...	...	5,000 „ at 2-10 @ 2-12

Linseed old crop 3 and 4 per cent, refraction 4-14 @ 5-2

Do. new crop 4 per cent.

For forward delivery in April and May 4-6 @ 4-8.

Wheat *old crop.*

Cawnpore	...	3-6 @ 3-7
Etawa	...	3-3
Delhi	...	3-9

New crop for forward delivery in April and May 3 2 @ 3-4

MONETARY.

The Bank of Bengal has on the 22nd instant raised its rates of discount and interest one per cent. all round. The present minimum rate is four per cent per annum, this is owing to better demand for money.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND JOINT-STOCK SHARES.

Government Securities have during the week experienced a better enquiry and prices have considerably advanced, being helped by telegraphic messeges from London, quoting higher rates for enfaced 4½ and 4 per cent. papers coupled with a simultaneous rise in the price of bar silver. Closing rates for 4 per cent. 9 3-1 @ 9 3-2

4½ 101-6 @ 101-7

Joint shares continue quiet and transactions were confined to Press, Coal, and I. G. S. Shares chiefly.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Rs.	A.	P.
H. H. the Maharaja of Indore	13	4	0
Engineer-in-Chief N. B. S. R. Saidpore	10	0	0
Rammanick Endo Esq. Cachar	19	14	0
J. C. Price Esq. C. S. Midnapore	4	8	0
H. H. the Newab of Rampore	13	4	0
E. A. Stoney Esq. Dist. Engr. Burdwan	1	12	0
P. W. Soor and Co., Meerut	13	4	0
Babu Doorgagoti Banerjea, Bankipore	13	4	0
„ Kadarnath Roy, Tipperah	13	4	0
„ Jodu Gopal Banerjea, Sindia	13	4	0
„ Issan Chunder Mookerjea Maldah	13	4	0

Babu Chunder Coomar Roy, Futtickchery	20	0	0
,, Doorgadas Das, Chittagong	20	0	0
,, Mutty Lal Ghosal, Shilligori	13	4	0
,, Issur Chunder Seal, Cachar	10	15	6
,, Ombica Churn Chowdry, Bamniah	10	0	0
,, Annodapersad Buxi, Nowdanga	10	0	0
,, Kalicanund Roy, Soobornopore	10	0	0
,, Dhondo Sakaram Sathe, Chhatishgurh	13	4	0
,, Bepin Behary Chatterjea, Atgram, Sylhet	6	0	0
,, Nemy Churn Mozoomdar, Benares	6	10	0
,, Dwarkanath Sircar, Pubrah	15	0	0
,, Soorjeekant Roy, Muksidpoor	5	0	0
,, Ramlal Mookerjea, Boinchee	15	4	0
,, Tez Narayan, Bhaugulpore	20	0	
			0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*January* 21, 1880.

GENERAL.—Mr. C. F. Manson, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Godda, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is allowed subsidiary leave for 14 days from the 2nd to the 15th October last, inclusive, under Section 11, Suplement F. to the Civil Leave Code.

In supersession of the orders of 31st July last, Mr. C. A. S. Bedford, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 24th August last.

Mr. A. E. Staley, of the Covenanted Civil Service, whose services have recently been placed at the disposal of this Government, is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in the district of Rungpore.

Baboo Poorno Chunder Gupto, Sub-Deputy Collector Rungpore, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871.

Mr. J. B. Roberts, Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, was on leave from the 11th to the 16th November last inclusive, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil leave Code.

Mr. P. Nolan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, acted as Superintendent of Stamps and Stationary, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. B. Roberts.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, with effect from the forenoon of the 29th ultimo.

Mr. R. D. Hime, Magistrate and Collector of Durbhunga, on leave, is promoted to the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 19th April last, *vice* Mr. G. S. Park.

Mr. A. L. Clay held the substantive appointment of a Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade from the 8th July to the 15th August 1879, inclusive, *vice* Mr. R. D. Hime.

Mr. R. H. Pawsey, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, is promoted to the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 16th August 1879, *vice* Mr. A. L. Clay.

Mr. R. Porch, Officiating Magistrrate and Collector of Maldah, is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the Third Grade, with effect from the 16th August 1879, *vice*, Mr. R. H. Pawsey. Mr, Porch will continue to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors.

Mr. T. F. Bignold, District and Sessions Judge of Bankoora, is promoted to the First Grade of District and Sessions Judges, with effect from the 4th November last, *vice* Mr. E. Grey.

Mr. J. Tweedie, District and Sessions Judge, Dacca, on leave, is promoted to the First Grade of District and Sessions Judges, with effect from the 22nd November last, *vice* Mr. R. J. Richardson.

Advertisements.

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday the 28th January 1880, *at the close of the Quarterly Meeting.*

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

The Hon'ble Kristodas Pal Rai Bahadoor to move that Dr. Kenneth McLeod be appointed Health-Officer on a salary of Rs. 700 per month.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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Parties intending to tender must deposit Rs. 300 as earnest money with the Corporation's Treasurer, whose receipt must accompany tender.

Tenders to be addressed to the Engineer to the Corporation under cover, and endorsed "*Tender for Landing and Breaking Imported Stones.*"

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☞ Moneyorders are to be made payable in the *Baranagore Branch Post Office only*, and *not in the Calcutta Head Post Office.*

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry limestone, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheskhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be sold separately and each tract will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.
2. The leases to be in force for 10 years, *viz.* from the 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.
3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.
4. A royalty of Rs. 20 per 1000 maunds of lime stone quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.
5. The Menimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 40,000 maunds of lime stone per annum.
6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz* on the 1st April and the 1st October.
7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST,
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tura, Garo Hills, The 10th January, 1880.

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry Coal, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheshkhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be shold separately and each will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.
2. The leases to be in force for 10 years *viz.* from 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.
3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.
4. A royalty of 3 annas per 1000 tons of coal quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.
5. The minimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 10,000 maunds of coal per annum.
6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz.* on the 1st April and 1st October.
7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST,
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tura, Garo Hills, The 10th January, 1880.

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The Sixteenth Annual *Conversazione* of the above Society will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday the 12th February 1880, at 9 P. M.

ABDOOL LUTIEF,
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R. W. WILSON,
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Sealed tenders will be received up to noon on 1st February 1880 for the monthly supply of 1000 tons best Steam Coal for Locomotives to the Northern Bengal State Railway for six months, from 1st April 1880 to 30th September 1880.

Conditions of delivery and Forms of Tender may be had on application at the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief and Manager N. B. State Railway—Saidpur.

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Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE

SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,

Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, assuring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

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Lime Supply for Bengal.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the leases of the undermentioned Lime-Quarries situate in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Assam, will be put up to AUCTION sale at the office of the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet at noon on the 31st of January 1880.

The leases will be for three years and nine months commencing from 1st February 1880 and ending 31st October 1883.

Not more than three leases will be permitted to be purchased in one interest.

Any quarry not worked, *i. e.*, not worked to turn out more than 40,000 maunds per annum, will be liable to resumption, and the Government will be at liberty to work such resumed quarry by direct agency.

The rent will be payable half-yearly in advance.

Further conditions will be duly notified at the time of sale.

No.	Names of quarries.	Where situate.
		Jaintia Hills.
1	Nongthalong Poonjee.	*North.*—By Padoo and Pamtadong Poonjees. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By old road leading from the plains to Amwie Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel.
2	Moorali Cherra ..	*North.*—By Sootang Poonjee. *South.*—By northern boundary of Rowai lime-quarry. *East.*—By Looba or Looke river. *West.*—By Western limit of lands appertaining to Moorali Poonjee.
3	Roopnath	*North.*—As far as limestone exists northward within lands pertaining to the village of Roopnath. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By Ooloo Cherra river. *West.*—By old road leading to Amwie Poonjee from the plains.
4	Lama Pooshee ...	*North.*—By Lakadong. *South.*—By boundary of Rowai limestone quarry. *East.*—By western boundary of the lands pertaining to Morali Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel.
		Malai Soh-mot State.
		Khasi Hills.
5	Nokria Cherra ...	*North.*—By south bank of Majdoora. *South.*—By Pandendish jungle. *East.*—By Mashim Khasia's garden. *West.*—By Shia Sing Khasia's garden.
		Maharam State.
		Khasi Hills.
6	RamsemdemRajke	*North.*—By Chapagar. *South.*—By Pook Cherra. *East.*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra. *West.*—By Hurrin Tilla Dhul.
		Bhowal State.
		Khasi Hills.
7	Bhowal Cherra ...	*North.*—By Chota Teekar Tilla. *South.*—By Kala Pani, *alias* Pukri Blei. *East.*—By Mongla-mora Tilla. *West.*—By Cherra Khowri Cherra
		Maodon
		Khasi Hills
8	Ka Long Long ...	*North*—By Maw Ngein *South*—By Chillai Cherra *East*—By Umjiuden Cherra *West*—By Waiblei and Chilla Cherra
		Maharam State
		Khasi Hills
9	Tangla ...	*North*—By Komoni Teekor as far as limebeds exist *South*—By Pak Cherra *East*—By Dhaymalia river *West*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra
		Maharam and Maiong
		Khasi Hills
10	Manai Cherra ...	*North*— *South*— *East*— } By forest and jungle lands pertaining to Maharam *West*—By Jadukata, *alias* Pona-thirth river
		Maodon
		Khasi Hills
11	Umjindem ...	*North*—By Lumrai-by-nem *South*—By Lum Tenget *East*—By Umiap *West*—By Umjindem Cherra
		Dwara Nongtyrmen
		Khasi Hills
12	Bor Syrmai ...	*North*—By Pan garden *South*—By Ka Lad-Luka *East*—By Lumdilong *West*—By Lum-raitruth
		Khasi Hills
13	Silai Cherra ...	*North*—By Lum-khar-proh *South*—By Um-sao-leim *East*—By Silai river *West*—Lum-di-long
		Khyrim.
		Khasi Hills
14	Mokertilla ..	*East*—By the Moonghat river *West and North*— } By lands pertaining to Maoloon and Umshapiang Poonjees *South*—By the Pyen river

W. F TROTTER,
Offg Deputy-Commissioner
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SHILLONG:
Deputy Commissioner's Office,
The 23rd December 1879.

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